

No. R-66. House concurrent resolution congratulating Vermont Court Diversion on its 40th anniversary.

(H.C.R.54)

Offered by: Representative Grad of Moretown

Whereas, since 1979, Vermonters in every county have successfully addressed crime at the community level through Court Diversion programs, and

Whereas, Court Diversion holds accountable youths and adults who violate the law, providing a restorative justice response to address their needs as well as the needs of victims and communities, and

Whereas, this innovative alternative to formal judicial proceedings has responded to the needs of crime victims and has overseen the distribution of over \$3,500,000.00 in restitution payments to these persons, and

Whereas, through its individualized approach to crime, Court Diversion promotes the development of safer Vermont communities and supports the establishment of relationships among community members, persons responsible for causing harm, and the victims of those harmful actions, and

Whereas, Court Diversion programs have redirected over 90,000 people out of the court system and reduced the work of prosecutors, defense counsel, and the courts, saving the State significant dollars, and

Whereas, in response to societal and legislative changes, Court Diversion has developed new programs to meet current needs, and

Whereas, for underage youths who possess alcohol and marijuana, Court Diversion provides screening and education as alternatives to the civil court process, and

Whereas, Vermonters have found ways to pay personal financial obligations and regain their driver's licenses as a result of participating in Court Diversion, and

Whereas, with increasing frequency, Court Diversion works with individuals whose crimes are rooted in addiction and connects them to treatment and recovery support services, and

Whereas, thousands of Vermonters who have successfully completed a Court Diversion process can be proud of their personal achievements, and

Whereas, 2019 marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Court Diversion in Vermont, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Vermont Court Diversion on its 40th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Director of Court Diversion and Pretrial Services.