

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs to which was  
3 referred Joint Resolution No. J.R.H. 7 entitled “Joint resolution apologizing  
4 and expressing sincere condolences to all Vermonters and their families who  
5 were harmed as a result of State-sanctioned and eugenically inspired  
6 sterilization” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and  
7 recommends that the resolution be amended by striking out all after the  
8 sponsor list and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

9 Whereas, in 1925, UVM zoology professor Henry F. Perkins established the  
10 now discredited Eugenics Survey of Vermont to measure evidence of  
11 defective, delinquent, and depraved behavior, and this survey targeted  
12 members of Abenaki bands, Vermonters of mixed racial or French-Canadian  
13 heritage, the poor, and persons with disabilities, and

14 Whereas, the General Assembly adopted 1931 Acts and Resolves No. 174,  
15 “An Act for Human Betterment By Voluntary Sterilization,” for the purpose of  
16 eliminating from the future Vermont genetic pool the tendency toward  
17 defective, delinquent, and depraved behavior, and

18 Whereas, this eugenically inspired legislation resulted in the sterilization of  
19 Vermonters, often without their fully informed voluntary consent, and

20 Whereas, in conducting the Eugenics Survey, the surveyors were granted  
21 access to case files from State agencies and institutions, and the files were

1 made available to police departments, social workers, educators, and town  
2 officials, and

3 Whereas, as a result of the opening of these files, children were removed  
4 from families, individuals were institutionalized and incarcerated, family  
5 connections were severed, and the sense of kinship and community was lost,  
6 and

7 Whereas, the devastating impact of these eugenics-inspired actions on the  
8 lives of the sterilized individuals and severed families was irreversible, and

9 Whereas, on June 21, 2019, the University of Vermont issued a formal  
10 statement of sincere apology for its “unethical and regrettable” eugenics role,  
11 and the General Assembly, on behalf of the State of Vermont, should issue a  
12 similar apology, now therefore be it

13 Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

14 That the General Assembly sincerely apologizes and expresses its sorrow  
15 and regret to all individual Vermonters and their families who were harmed as  
16 a result of State-sanctioned eugenics policies and practices.

17 and that after adoption, the title of the resolution be amended to read “Joint  
18 resolution sincerely apologizing and expressing sorrow and regret to all  
19 individual Vermonters and their families who were harmed as a result of State-  
20 sanctioned eugenics policies and practices.”

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1 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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\_\_\_\_\_

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE