

House JRH2	Senate JRH2
<p><u>Whereas</u>, State institutions established in the 19th century, including the Vermont State Hospital for the Insane and the Vermont Reform School, became settings for the implementation of eugenics policies, and</p>	<p><u>Whereas</u>, starting in the early 1900s, laws and associated policies were adopted to promote the eugenics movement, and the title of the book Breeding Better Vermonters by Nancy L. Gallagher accurately describes the movement’s purported intent, and</p>
<p>No House Parallel</p>	<p><u>Whereas</u>, this movement targeted for elimination those it deemed currently or potentially delinquent, defective, and dependent persons through sterilizations, primarily of women, to prevent individuals from having children, and</p>
<p><u>Whereas</u>, in 1912, the intent of the General Assembly to develop policies that in later years would be identified as the practice of eugenics was manifested with the passage of the subsequently vetoed S.79 of 1912, “An act to authorize and provide for the sterilization of imbeciles, feeble-minded, and insane persons, rapists, confirmed criminals and other defectives” and through the enactment of Acts and Resolves No. 81 of 1912, “An act to provide for the care, training and education of feeble-minded children,” the law authorizing the Brandon Training School, which opened in 1915, and</p>	<p><u>Whereas</u>, in 1912, the Vermont General Assembly passed S.79, “An act to authorize and provide for the sterilization of imbeciles, feeble-minded, and insane persons, rapists, confirmed criminals and other defectives,” however, Governor Allen M. Fletcher vetoed the bill, citing constitutional concerns that Attorney General Rufus E. Brown had raised, and</p>
<p>No parallel</p>	<p><u>Whereas</u>, nevertheless, State agencies and institutions adopted policies and procedures to carry out the intent of the vetoed legislation and the beliefs of the eugenics movement, and</p>
<p><u>Whereas</u>, in 1925, University of Vermont zoology professor Henry F. Perkins established the Eugenics Survey of Vermont, with the participation of leaders within Vermont State government, to collect evidence of Vermonters alleged delinquency, dependency, and deficiency, and</p>	<p>Whereas, in 1925, University of Vermont zoology professor Henry F. Perkins, who established the Eugenics Survey of Vermont and served as President of the American Eugenics Society, collaborated with leaders of Vermont State government to collect evidence of Vermonters’ alleged delinquency, dependency, and deficiency, and</p>

<p><u>Whereas</u>, State-sanctioned eugenics policies targeted Vermonters of Native American Indian heritage, including French-Indian and Abenaki families, and persons of mixed ethnicity and of French-Canadian heritage, as well as the poor and persons with disabilities, among others, and</p>	<p><u>Whereas</u>, these State-sanctioned policies targeted the poor and persons with mental and physical disabilities, and <u>Whereas</u>, these same policies also targeted individuals, families, and communities whose heritage was documented as French Canadian, French-Indian, or of other mixed ethnic or racial composition and persons whose extended families’ successor generations now identify as Abenaki or as members of other indigenous bands or tribes, and</p>
<p><u>Whereas</u>, in 1927, S.59 “An act related to Voluntary Eugenical Sterilization” passed the Senate but was defeated in the House, and</p>	<p><u>Whereas</u>, in 1927, S.59, “An act relating to Voluntary Eugenical Sterilization” passed the Senate but was defeated in the House, and</p>
<p><u>Whereas</u>, the General Assembly adopted 1931 Acts and Resolves No. 174 (Act 174) “An Act for Human Betterment by Voluntary Sterilization,” for the purpose of eliminating from the future Vermont genetic pool persons deemed mentally unfit to procreate, and</p>	<p><u>Whereas</u>, the General Assembly adopted 1931 Acts and Resolves No. 174 (Act 174), “An Act for Human Betterment by Voluntary Sterilization,” for the purpose of eliminating from the future Vermont genetic pool persons deemed mentally unfit to procreate, and</p>
<p><u>Whereas</u>, Act 174 resulted in the sterilization of Vermonters, and whether these individuals provided informed consent can be questioned, and</p>	<p>No Senate Parallel</p>
<p><u>Whereas</u>, this State-sanctioned eugenics policy was not an isolated example of oppression, but reflected the historic marginalization, discriminatory treatment, and displacement of these targeted groups in Vermont, and</p>	<p><u>Whereas</u>, this State-sanctioned eugenics policy was not an isolated example of oppression but reflected the historic marginalization, discriminatory treatment, and displacement of these targeted groups in Vermont, and</p>
<p><u>Whereas</u>, eugenics advocates promoted sterilization for the protection of Vermont’s “old stock” and to preserve the physical and social environment of Vermont for their children, and</p>	<p><u>Whereas</u>, eugenics advocates promoted sterilization for the protection of Vermont’s “old stock” and to preserve the physical and social environment of Vermont for their children, and</p>
<p><u>Whereas</u>, the Eugenics Survey received assistance from State and municipal officials, individuals, and private organizations, and the resulting sterilization, institutionalization, and separation policies intruded on the lives of its victims and had devastating and irreversible impacts that still persist [in</p>	<p>Whereas, the Eugenics Survey received assistance from State and municipal officials, individuals, and private organizations, and the resulting sterilization, institutionalization, and separation policies intruded on the lives of its victims and had devastating and irreversible impacts that still persist in the</p>

the lives of the targeted groups and especially the descendants of those who were directly impacted, and	lives of the targeted groups and especially the descendants of those who were directly impacted, and
<u>Whereas</u> , in conducting the Eugenics Survey, the surveyors were granted access to case files from State agencies and institutions, and the files were made available to persons of authority, including police departments, social workers, educators, and town officials, and	<u>Whereas</u> , in conducting the Eugenics Survey, the surveyors were granted access to case files from State agencies and institutions, and the files were made available to persons of authority, including police departments, social workers, educators, and town officials, and
<u>Whereas</u> , as a result of the opening of these files, children and adults were removed from families, individuals were institutionalized or incarcerated, family connections were severed, and the sense of kinship, continuity and community was lost, now therefore be it	<u>Whereas</u> , as a result of the opening of these files, children and adults were removed from families, individuals were institutionalized or incarcerated, family connections were severed, and the sense of kinship, continuity and community was lost, and
No House Parallel	<u>Whereas</u> , the legacy of the eugenics movement continues to influence some of Vermont's current policies and legislation, now therefore be it
That the General Assembly sincerely apologizes and expresses its sorrow and regret to all individual Vermonters and their families and descendants who were harmed as a result of State-sanctioned eugenics policies and practices, and be it further	That the General Assembly sincerely apologizes and expresses sorrow and regret to all individual Vermonters and their families and descendants who were harmed as a result of State-sanctioned eugenics policies and practices, and be it further
No House Parallel	Resolved: That the General Assembly continues to work to eradicate the lasting legacy of its prior actions by listening to and working with the affected individuals and communities, and be it further
Resolved: That the General Assembly recognizes that further legislative action should be taken to address the continuing impact of State-sanctioned eugenics policies and related practices of disenfranchisement, ethnocide, and genocide.	Resolved: That the General Assembly recognizes that further legislative action should be taken to address the continuing impact of State-sanctioned eugenics policies and related practices of disenfranchisement, ethnocide, and genocide.
