

No. R-170. House concurrent resolution designating September 26, 2024 as Mesothelioma Awareness Day in Vermont.

(H.C.R. 129)

Offered by: Representative Priestley of Bradford

Whereas, mesothelioma is a form of cancer contracted through exposure to asbestos that can affect the membrane of a person's abdomen, heart, or testicles, but in 80 to 90 percent of its occurrences, it directly impacts an individual's lungs, which is known as the pleural form of the disease, and

Whereas, the symptoms of pleural mesothelioma are persistent chest pain and coughing, difficulty breathing, fatigue, fever, pleural effusion, shortness of breath, and weight loss, and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that approximately 2,500 mesothelioma deaths, from all variants, occur each year in the United States, and that for pleural mesothelioma, the survival rates are 73 percent for one year and 12 percent for five years, and from all variants of the disease, 54,905 Americans died between 1999 and 2020, and

Whereas, in Vermont, asbestos was discovered in approximately 1824 on Belvidere Mountain, and throughout the 19th century, small prospecting projects occurred, and

Whereas, in 1901, major mining activity began that, by the 1960s, was extracting an average of 3,500 tons of asbestos daily, and before the mine's closure in 1993, Vermont had become the second-largest source of asbestos after California, and

Whereas, for decades, asbestos was a common construction material, and although the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency banned its spray-on use in 1978, effectively reducing its prevalence in newer buildings, countless older structures containing asbestos are still in active use, and asbestos remains in products such as brake linings and pads, cement pipes and sheets, fireproofing textiles, and flooring and carpet adhesive, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates September 26, 2024 as Mesothelioma Awareness Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Mary Elizabeth Esposito in Bradford.