

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

**ADDENDUM**

**TO THE**

**HOUSE CALENDAR**

**Text of House Concurrent  
Resolutions**

**of**

**March 16, 2023**

## **Concurrent Resolutions for Adoption Under Joint Rules 16a -16d**

The following concurrent resolutions will be adopted automatically unless a Senator or Representative requests floor consideration in the member's chamber prior to adjournment of the next legislative day. Requests for floor consideration in either chamber should be communicated to the Senate Secretary's Office or the House Clerk's Office, as applicable.

### **Resolutions**

#### **H.C.R. 48**

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement on the observance of St Patrick's Day 2023

Offered by: Representative Casey of Montpelier

Whereas, the Troubles, as the political and sectarian violence that began in 1969 in Northern Ireland is known, resulted in profound societal discord and far too many deaths on all sides, and

Whereas, on April 10, 1998, not coincidentally Good Friday, there were two sets of agreements: one between most of the political parties in Northern Ireland and the government of the United Kingdom, and another between the governments of the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic, and

Whereas, collectively known as the Good Friday Agreement, this historic accord represented a landmark breakthrough that provided Ireland with a political framework to address its future, and both American political parties were supportive, and

Whereas, the Good Friday Agreement acknowledges the right of differing political traditions to pursue their goal of either remaining part of the United Kingdom or part of Irish Unity and demonstrates a democratic and peaceful means of resolving differences of a great magnitude, and

Whereas, although important issues remain unresolved in Northern Ireland, this historic agreement remains an irrevocable foundation of the Northern Ireland peace process, and

Whereas, on the 17th of March, St. Patrick's Day, it is most fitting to recognize the enduring importance of the Good Friday Agreement, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly, on the observance of St Patrick's Day 2023, commemorates the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Chair of the American Irish State Legislators Caucus, to Republic of Ireland Senator Mark Daly, the 24th Leas-Cathaoirleach of Seanad Éireann, and to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

### **H.C.R. 49**

House concurrent resolution congratulating Westford Elementary School's robotics teams for their award-winning performances at the FIRST LEGO League State Championship

Offered by: Representative Andrews of Westford

Whereas, the FIRST LEGO League State Championship, held on January 28, 2023, at Norwich University, posed dual technological challenges to student competitors: the first, to design, construct, and code autonomous robots capable of completing designated tasks; and the second, known as the Innovation Project, to identify a real-world energy-related problem and create a prototype solution in collaboration with experts and consumers, and

Whereas, four teams of students representing Westford Elementary School won Innovation Project-associated recognition, half of the event's prizes, and

Whereas, the Pickle Pandas (Drew Ainsworth, Brooke Danaher, Dylan Henry, Aiden Menut, Anna Minor, Amelia Moreland, and Grace Raymond) earned the Engineering Excellence Award for designing a device that detects and deters squirrels from disturbing the electric power grid; the Interplanetary Pizza Pandas (Oliver Cady, Keith Collins, David McElvany, Toby Jeans, Maeve LaBossiere, Inez Medick, and Owen Mellion) won the Motivate Award for designing an on-demand and preplanned microtransit system for Westford and other small rural communities; the Muddy Pandas (Dominic Delisle, Harrison Frennier, Maisy Drapa, Jackson Frederick, and Andrew Stockwell) secured the Rising All-Star Award for developing a method to reduce energy consumption with improved translations of raw data from smart meters into actionable and motivational text messages; and Panda-Monium! (Izzy Cady, Sophia Frederick, Ethan Jeans, Ava Menut, Mary Stockwell, and Ryder White) garnered the Innovation Project Award for envisioning an expandable community solar project with battery backup for Westford; and Mark Drapa served as a superb faculty mentor, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Westford Elementary School's robotics teams for their award-winning performances at the FIRST LEGO League State Championship, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Westford Elementary School.

### **H.C.R. 50**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Governor's Institutes of Vermont on their 40th anniversary

Offered by: Representatives Bos-Lun of Westminster, Andrews of Westford, Anthony of Barre City, Boyden of Cambridge, Brumsted of Shelburne, Burke of Brattleboro, Buss of Woodstock, Chapin of East Montpelier, Coffey of Guilford, Cordes of Lincoln, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Goldman of Rockingham, Goslant of Northfield, Graning of Jericho, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Howard of Rutland City, Jerome of Brandon, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, Mihaly of Calais, Mrowicki of Putney, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Pajala of Londonderry, Rachelson of Burlington, Stevens of Waterbury, Stone of Burlington, Torre of Moretown, and Troiano of Stannard

Whereas, the catalyst for the formation of the Governor's Institutes of Vermont (GIV) occurred in 1982, when the Commissioner of Education and the Director of the Vermont Arts Council identified a serious deficiency in arts education that resulted in the 1983 launch of the Governor's Institute on the Arts, with a large and enthusiastic student response, and

Whereas, the mission of GIV "is to help Vermont create productive, empowered, and engaged young adults by reaching out to diverse learners with high-impact, world-class learning opportunities," and

Whereas, since 1983, numerous and academically diverse institutes have been established and housed on college campuses, and, in 2023, the institutes will focus on the Arts, Engineering, Entrepreneurship, Environmental Science & Technology, Global Issues & Youth Action, Health & Medicine, Mathematical Sciences, and Technology & Design, and

Whereas, the institutes are geographically and economically, racially and ethnically, and gender- and identity-inclusive, as well as physically accessible, and students pay a sliding scale tuition, ensuring affordability, and

Whereas, in addition to the summer college residency programs, GIV has conducted winter weekends, one-day Artshops, and, in response to the restrictions of COVID-19, online summer immersions were developed, and

Whereas, Christine Graham, David Gibson, Jean Olson, Karen Taylor Mitchell, and, since 2021, Elizabeth Frascoia have each served as an outstanding GIV Executive Director, and over 12,000 Vermont youths have enriched their lives by attending a GIV institute, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Governor's Institutes of Vermont on their 40th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to GIV Executive Director Elizabeth Frascoia.

## **H.C.R. 51**

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Vermont Downtown Program and designating March 22, 2023 as Downtown Day at the State House

Offered by: Representatives Wood of Waterbury, Coffey of Guilford, Dolan of Waitsfield, Donahue of Northfield, Garofano of Essex, Gregoire of Fairfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Howard of Rutland City, Hyman of South Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Morris of Springfield, Ode of Burlington, Priestley of Bradford, Scheu of Middlebury, Sheldon of Middlebury, Small of Winooski, Stevens of Waterbury, White of Bethel, and Whitman of Bennington

Whereas, in 1998 Acts and Resolves No. 120 [the Act], as amended in 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 59, the General Assembly found that "economically strong downtowns are critical to the health and well-being of Vermont's communities," and that "[i]nvestments made to revitalize the State's historic downtowns...support statewide goals concerning energy conservation... the efficient use of transportation and other infrastructure and services, the protection of the working landscape, and the promotion of healthy lifestyles," and

Whereas, to effectuate these important objectives, the Act established the Vermont Downtown Development Board [the Board], for the designation of downtown development districts and for the granting of financial, including tax, incentives to these districts, and

Whereas, in 2022, the State-designated downtown development districts received over \$27.5 million in public investment, \$101.1 million in private investment, and they were the location for 149 new and expanded businesses, and more than 465 new full- and part-time jobs, and

Whereas, on average, every dollar of tax credit awarded to a district leveraged \$18 in new funds, and in 2022, the Board awarded \$2.3 million in tax credits for 12 projects, supporting almost \$40 million in construction and rehabilitation projects, and

Whereas, a supportive downtown organization is associated with each designated downtown district, and in 2022, the 24 downtown organizations contributed a combined 30,166 volunteer hours valued at \$848,871, and the committed volunteers and staff of these organizations are essential in maintaining the vibrancy and economic success of the designated downtown districts, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Vermont Downtown Program and designates March 22, 2023 as Downtown Day at the State House, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Downtown Coalition and to the Vermont Downtown Development Board.

### **H.C.R. 52**

House concurrent resolution designating March 22, 2023 as Vermont Tourism Day at the State House

Offered by: Representatives Jerome of Brandon and Marcotte of Coventry

Offered by: Senator Ram Hinsdale

Whereas, Vermont is a global destination for experiencing superb outdoor recreation, great dining, wonderful lodging, beautiful art, memorable musical performances, and for visiting interesting historic sites, and

Whereas, the best destination stewardship means a tourism and hospitality leadership that embraces community values of inclusion and representation that ensure that all visitors to the Green Mountain State, regardless of background, are welcomed and will enjoy their visit, and

Whereas, the vital importance of tourism and hospitality for the sustainability of the urban and rural communities of all 14 Vermont counties cannot be overstated, and

Whereas, annually, millions of people visit the Green Mountain State, a number that enabled tourism and hospitality to generate \$387.3 million in FY 2021 tax revenue, to employ over 30,000 people, representing ten percent of the State's workforce, and to trigger a State economic impact exceeding \$3 billion, and

Whereas, Tourism Day is an occasion to celebrate the importance of welcoming visitors to Vermont, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates March 22, 2023 as Tourism Day at the State House, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Commissioner of Marketing and Tourism.

### **H.C.R. 53**

House concurrent resolution recognizing the week of May 14–20 as National Skilled Nursing Care Week and the week of September 10–16 as National Assisted Living Week in Vermont

Offered by: Representative Wood of Waterbury

Offered by: Senators Lyons, Gulick, Hardy, Weeks, and Williams

Whereas, older Vermonters and individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities deserve the most attentive, honorable, and respectful care possible, and nursing facilities, residential care homes, and assisted living residences are charged with meeting this critical objective, and

Whereas, the dedicated staff of these long-term care facilities rose to and met the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath, and both the residents and staff of these facilities will be participating in celebratory events during 2023, and

Whereas, in May, they will observe National Skilled Nursing Care Week, and, in September, National Assisted Living Week will be commemorated, and

Whereas, these weeks offer a great opportunity for Vermonters to show their support for family and friends residing in and the caregiving staff employed at these facilities, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the week of May 14–20 as National Skilled Nursing Care Week and the week of September 10–16 as National Assisted Living Week in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Health Care Association and the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living.

### **H.C.R. 54**

House concurrent resolution honoring Bruce Sklar, Harwood Union Middle and High School jazz teacher extraordinaire

Offered by: Representatives Dolan of Waitsfield, Holcombe of Norwich, Stevens of Waterbury, Torre of Moretown, and Wood of Waterbury

Whereas, the exciting jazz melodies and rhythms created at Harwood Union Middle and High School resulted from the creativity of faculty member Bruce Sklar, and

Whereas, his interest in jazz began as a youngster in Newton, Massachusetts, where he grew up in a musically astute family, and

Whereas, the hours spent in the local Kota Audio store and the lessons absorbed from his first jazz teacher, Gene Ashton, later known as Cooper Moore, proved invaluable, and

Whereas, although an aspiring jazz musician, Bruce Sklar auditioned for entrance into the University of Massachusetts Amherst as a classical music student, as the jazz program, of which he was the first graduate, was only established after his admission, and

Whereas, his move to the Mad River Valley began with visits to friends' ski houses, regular trips to participate in Warren's Fourth of July celebration, and, eventually, to join the jazz band Pure Pressure, and

Whereas, in 1994, Chris Rivers, the Harwood music teacher, invited Bruce Sklar to teach jazz part-time at Harwood, and Bruce Sklar developed both high school and middle school jazz bands, and, in 1999, he became a full-time faculty member who taught students to synthesize their musical ideas, thereby not only producing great jazz players, but establishing an intellectual skill they have applied in amazing careers unrelated to music, and

Whereas, his jazz nights at Harwood were truly memorable musical collaborations and improvisations, and

Whereas, in the 2022–2023 academic year, Bruce Sklar is bidding farewell to Harwood Union Middle and High School, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Bruce Sklar, Harwood Union Middle and High School jazz teacher extraordinaire, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Bruce Sklar.

## **H.C.R. 55**

House concurrent resolution honoring Chris Rivers on his transformative career as Harwood Union Middle and High School Music Department Chair

Offered by: Representatives Dolan of Waitsfield, Holcombe of Norwich, Stevens of Waterbury, Torre of Moretown, and Wood of Waterbury

Whereas, music studies at Harwood Union Middle and High School are renowned in large measure because of the innovative leadership of Chris Rivers, and

Whereas, his musical odyssey included the Crane School of Music at the State University of New York at Potsdam, from which he graduated, and



continued with graduate studies at Florida State University, where he switched from a performance to a pedagogic focus and earned a master's degree in teaching, and

Whereas, as a trumpeter, Chris Rivers specialized in brass ensemble, and in leading the seventh grade, eighth grade, and high school bands at Harwood, as well as in teaching music theory and the history of rock and roll, the latter recently presented online for the Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative, and

Whereas, he is responsible for an extensive private lesson program that both involves nine non-faculty instructors who teach lessons on clarinet, drums, guitar, trombone, trumpet, and other instruments and encourages participation regardless of a family's ability to afford an instrument, and

Whereas, problem-solving, discipline, and how to meet a challenge are essential lessons that Chris Rivers emphasizes in his classes, and

Whereas, after a stellar 33-year career at Harwood, Chris Rivers is concluding his teaching and school administrative duties and anticipates expanding his own performance schedule, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Chris Rivers on his transformative career as Harwood Union Middle and High School Music Department Chair, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Chris Rivers.

## **H.C.R. 56**

House concurrent resolution recognizing March 12–18 as AmeriCorps Week in Vermont

Offered by: Representative Noyes of Wolcott

Whereas, the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 established the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), of which the family of AmeriCorps programs is a central component, and

Whereas, since 1994, more than 1.25 million Americans have served as AmeriCorps members or volunteers, and the comparable number of Vermonters exceeds 6,200, and

Whereas, in 2023, there are 200,000 Americans serving at 40,000 AmeriCorps locations nationwide, and

Whereas, SerVermont is the State office that oversees over 2,200 AmeriCorps members and volunteers at 420 service locations known as AmeriCorps National, AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps), AmeriCorps State, and AmeriCorps VISTA, and

Whereas, the Vermont programs, at which younger Vermonters can earn future educational scholarship support, are ECO VT (Environmental Careers and Opportunities AmeriCorps), LEAP (Lyndon Economic Opportunity AmeriCorps Program), Vermont Housing and Conservation Board AmeriCorps, Vermont Youth Conservation Corps AmeriCorps, and VYDC (Vermont Youth Development Corps State Program), each of which directly improves either the lives of Vermonters or the quality of the State's natural resources, and

Whereas, Vermonters ages 55 and older serve as AmeriCorps volunteers through the Senior Corps, Foster Grandparents, RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) and Senior Companions, and

Whereas, the CNCS has designated the week of March 12–18 as AmeriCorps Week, and this commemoration honors all the individuals, both past and present who have served in AmeriCorps and made significant contributions to our State and nation, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the week of March 12–18 as AmeriCorps Week in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to SerVermont.