

By Senate Committee on Institutions,

Joint resolution relating to State lands transactions in Jamaica State Park and Coolidge State Forest.

Whereas, the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (the Department) owns and manages the Jamaica State Park (the Park) in Jamaica and the Coolidge State Forest, which includes the Curtis Hollow Block in Woodstock, and

Whereas, Jamaica State Park, which is situated adjacent to the West River, includes the widely used West River Trail, and a segment of this trail passes across a 5.4-acre inholding that the Nancy J. Winslow Revocable Trust (the Trust) owns, and which is known as the Salmon Hole Lot (the Lot), and

Whereas, the public uses the Salmon Hole Lot to access the West River, and for cross-country skiing, hiking, and picnicking, and Peter Winslow has agreed to acquire this parcel from the Trust, and

Whereas, Peter Winslow owns two non-contiguous parcels adjacent to the Park, and the Department recently discovered that one of the parcels encroaches on the Park, and

Whereas, the Department proposes to convey to Peter Winslow an approximately 24.7-acre parcel that is of little ecological or recreational value that will resolve the encroachment in exchange for the Department's

acquisition of the Lot and an associated right-of-way easement across the West River Trail to access the Lot, and

Whereas, the Department will retain a right-of-way easement along Jacobs Road, across the property to be conveyed to Peter Winslow, to provide access to this property for both public and forest management, and

Whereas, Jamie Ellertson owns a 160-acre parcel that separates a segment of the Coolidge State Forest (the Forest) from the contiguous section of the Forest, and he also owns a second parcel that the Forest separates from his 160-acre parcel, and

Whereas, the 160-acre Ellertson parcel and the separated segment of the Forest are both landlocked and lacking in legal access, and the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) holds a conservation easement on the 160-acre Ellertson parcel, and the easement allows for the subdivision and development of one residential lot, and

Whereas, Jamie Ellertson has agreed to convey to the Department a 102-acre parcel and a 400-foot-wide right-of-way easement for a public recreational trail to the summit of Old Baldy Mountain, and, in exchange, the Department will convey to Jamie Ellertson a 102-acre parcel, and these transactions will result in the extinguishment of the VLT easement, resolve the access issues related to the 160-acre Ellertson parcel and the separated Forest

parcel, and provide permanent public recreational access to the summit of Old Baldy Mountain, and

Whereas, 10 V.S.A. § 2606(b) authorizes the Commissioner of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (the Commissioner) to sell, convey, exchange or lease land, or interests in land, or to amend deeds, leases, and easement interests subject to General Assembly approval, and both the Commissioner and the General Assembly find the following actions to be in the best interests of the State, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly authorizes the Commissioner of Forests, Park and Recreation to take the following actions:

First: With respect to Jamaica State Park: To convey to Peter Winslow a parcel of approximately 24.7 acres in the Town of Jamaica with certain deed restrictions prohibiting commercial and residential development and use and limiting use of the parcel to forestry, recreation, and vehicular access by Peter Winslow. In exchange for the conveyance of the Department, Peter Winslow will convey to the Department, without restrictions, a parcel of approximately 5.4 acres known as the Salmon Hole Lot, and an associated right-of-way easement across the West River Trail to provide public access to the Salmon Hole Lot. The Department shall retain a right-of-way easement for forest

management and public recreation purposes across the 24.7-acre parcel from or along Town Legal Trail 12 to access the Park.

Second: With respect to Coolidge State Forest: To convey to Jamie Ellertson a 102-acre parcel, which is part of the Curtis Hollow Block, subject to the conveyance to the Vermont Land Trust of a conservation easement restricting development and use of the parcel to forestry, educational, recreational, and open-space purposes. In exchange for the conveyance of the 102-acre parcel to Jamie Ellertson, he shall convey to the Department a 102-acre parcel adjacent to the Forest, along with a 400-foot-wide right-of-way easement for a public recreation trail to the summit of Old Baldy Mountain. James Ellertson shall convey an extinguishment on his 160-acre parcel of the existing right to subdivide and develop one residential lot, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Commissioner of Forests, Parks, and Recreation.