

No. R-89. House concurrent resolution designating April 2, 2025 as Early College Day at the State House.

(H.C.R.69)

Offered by Representatives Marcotte of Coventry, Bosch of Clarendon, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Cooper of Pownal, Micklus of Milton, Olson of Starksboro, Priestley of Bradford, and White of Bethel

Whereas, the percentage of Vermont high school students pursuing postsecondary education has declined significantly in recent years, and

Whereas, an important antidote to this trend is the Early College Program (ECP) that enables high school students simultaneously to complete their senior year and freshman year of college, and

Whereas, the enactment of 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 77, “An act... encouraging flexible pathways to secondary school completion,” updated Vermont’s long history of offering alternative methods to achieve high school graduation, and this act was designed to improve postsecondary readiness and enrollment, and

Whereas, the ECP established in Act 77 represents approximately 0.4 percent of the expenditures from the Education Fund, and it is intended to encourage postsecondary education enrollment among students who might not otherwise consider this option, and

Whereas, demonstrable gains have occurred during the past three years in the equitable admission of students into the ECP at the Community College of Vermont, including a 250 percent increase in the enrollment of students with low income, and

Whereas, Vermont associate degree graduates are among the most likely in the country to realize a positive return on their investment, a figure that stands at 79 percent according to the Strada Education Foundation, and

Whereas, the ECP has a major influence in directing the personal postsecondary education and career aspirations of the State’s students, and it prospectively strengthens the future Vermont workforce, and

Whereas, today, April 2, 2025, ECP enrollees who are studying at the Community College of Vermont are visiting the State House, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 2, 2025 as Early College 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 president of the Community College of Vermont and the Secretary of Education.