

**No. R-97. House concurrent resolution recognizing April 2025 as Fair Housing Month in Vermont.**

(H.C.R.77)

Offered by Representatives Stevens of Waterbury, Bishop of Colchester, Bluemle of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Brown of Richmond, Burrows of West Windsor, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Cina of Burlington, Dodge of Essex, Garofano of Essex, Harrison of Chittenden, Headrick of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, James of Manchester, Kleppner of Burlington, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Krasnow of South Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Olson of Starksboro, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Satcowitz of Randolph, Scheu of Middlebury, Stone of Burlington, Tomlinson of Winooski, Waszazak of Barre City, Wood of Waterbury, and Yacovone of Morristown

Offered by Senators Clarkson, Bongartz, Brock, Gulick, Hardy, Mattos, Perchlik, Ram Hinsdale, Watson, Weeks, and White

*Whereas*, for generations, millions of Americans have been denied the housing of their choice because of their race, ethnicity, religion, or disability, and

*Whereas*, on April 11, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, including Title VIII, known as the Fair Housing Act, and

*Whereas*, Vermont's 1987 Fair Housing Act, as amended, prohibits discrimination in the rental, sale, or financing of housing based on "race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking," as well as the denial of development permitting based on the income of prospective residents, making this law more protective than the federal statutes and among the most comprehensive in the nation, and

*Whereas*, the Vermont Human Rights Commission (the Commission) was established in 1987 and tasked with enforcing Vermont's Fair Housing Act, among other State antidiscrimination provisions, and

*Whereas*, in 2024 and 2025, the Commission has experienced an increase in fair housing inquiries and has processed more fair housing complaints than ever before, and

*Whereas*, in recent months, the federal government has drastically deprioritized fair housing enforcement and education and has attempted to reduce or eliminate funding for agencies and organizations working for fair housing, and

*Whereas*, inclusive, welcoming, and affordable communities promote diversity and a climate conducive to economic development, and

*Whereas*, the current housing crisis impacts all Vermonters and disproportionately impacts people in protected classes, and

*Whereas*, the State of Vermont remains committed to ensuring that everyone who lives in Vermont is entitled to the protections of Vermont's Fair Housing Act, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly recognizes April 2025 as Fair Housing Month in Vermont, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Human Rights Commission, the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity, and the Vermont Legal Aid Housing Discrimination Law Project.