

**No. R-149. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 30th anniversary of Garlic Town U.S.A., a celebration of “flavor, community, and tradition.”**

(H.C.R.125)

Offered by Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Greer of Bennington, and Nigro of Bennington

Offered by Senators Bongartz and Plunkett

*Whereas*, garlic is a vegetable that may be described as a stinking rose, but for 30 years, its strong and distinctive aroma has annually launched a grand festival, and

*Whereas*, the origin of this combined agricultural, artistic, culinary, and musical extravaganza, which attracts attendees from near and far, dates from 1995, when a small farmers market, known as the Southern Vermont Garlic and Herb Festival, was established in Wilmington, and

*Whereas*, this homage to all things garlic rapidly expanded in popularity, and in 2008, the Bennington Area Chamber of Commerce, since rebranded as the Southwestern Vermont Chamber of Commerce, brought the event to Bennington, and

*Whereas*, by 2019, under the devoted leadership and careful curation of festival chair Lindy Lynch, this annual gathering had expanded 260 percent, with 16,000 attendees, and it was honored as one of the world’s top 10 garlic festivals, and

*Whereas*, following a brief pandemic-necessitated pause, this stellar Bennington County observance was rebranded as Garlic Town U.S.A.; switched to a new site in downtown Bennington; and this year, as a one-day celebration, will be broadened in scope to showcase “new energy, vendors, and experiences,” while still saluting the wonders of garlic, and

*Whereas*, Garlic Town U.S.A. has exciting plans for the festival’s 2025 rendition on August 30, with the intent to accommodate 130 vendors, including garlic growers, artisans, and specialty food producers; to offer a vibrant downtown atmosphere; to provide interactive children’s activities; to station food trucks to nourish hungry appetites; and, importantly, to limit the day’s environmental impact with a broad commitment to a zero-waste initiative, and

*Whereas*, the continuing success of Garlic Town U.S.A. is the result of the festival’s enthusiastic organizers, supporters, and volunteers, and especially its superb current manager, Mikaela Lewis, *now therefore be it*

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

That the General Assembly commemorates the 30th anniversary of Garlic Town U.S.A., a celebration of “flavor, community, and tradition,” *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Southwestern Vermont Chamber of Commerce.