

**No. R-228. House concurrent resolution congratulating Village Garage Distillery of Bennington on winning a silver medal at the 2025 San Francisco World Spirits Competition for Bonfire, its debut spirit, a smoked maple bourbon.**

(H.C.R.187)

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

Offered by Senators Bongartz and Plunkett

*Whereas*, in 2021, Matt Cushman and Glen Sauer, native Vermonters of multigenerational descent, established the Village Garage Distillery in Bennington in order to create spirit beverages consisting of high-quality locally sourced ingredients, and

*Whereas*, Village Garage Distillery's signature product is Bonfire smoked maple bourbon, "a small batch spirit crafted in southern Vermont" that draws upon "Vermont grains and crisp Vermont water," and is invigorated with "a kiss of Vermont smoked maple syrup," and

*Whereas*, this tantalizing and unique bourbon evokes the special ambience of family and friends gathered around a roaring campfire, and

*Whereas*, the San Francisco World Spirits Competition is renowned for its vigorous blind-tasting process that has earned this event a coveted ranking among spirits-judging competitions across the globe, and

*Whereas*, on July 15, 2025, the staff of Village Garage Distillery was ecstatic and honored when the San Francisco World Spirits Competition awarded the small and relatively new distillery a prestigious silver medal in recognition of Bonfire's outstanding composition and taste, instantaneously bestowing esteemed international regard on the distillery's first product, and

*Whereas*, now associated with an extraordinary imprimatur, Bonfire smoked maple bourbon has inspired the Village Garage Distillery to work even harder in its creation of outstanding locally sourced spirits, which may be enjoyed at Pearl's at the Garage restaurant, at regional retailers, and nationally via the distillery's online store, *now therefore be it*

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

That the General Assembly congratulates the Village Garage Distillery of Bennington on winning a silver medal at the 2025 San Francisco World Spirits Competition for Bonfire, its debut spirit, a smoked maple bourbon, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Village Garage Distillery in Bennington.