

No. R-319. House concurrent resolution recognizing May 2026 as Older Americans Month and designating May 6, 2026, as Age Strong Vermont Day.

(H.C.R.261)

Offered by Representative Noyes of Wolcott

Whereas, the life experience, knowledge, and contributions of older Vermonters are invaluable societal assets, making Vermont a state with considerable historical knowledge and professional experience, and

Whereas, May is celebrated nationally every year as Older Americans Month, a time to recognize older adults' invaluable contributions, to highlight aging trends, and to reaffirm Vermont's commitment to serving older adults, and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Census' American Community Survey, as of 2024, 22.8 percent of Vermont's population is 65 years of age or older, and

Whereas, this demographic reality presents opportunities to capitalize on the diverse experiences, expertise, and skills of older Vermonters, and

Whereas, since the enactment of the Older Vermonters Act (2020 Acts and Resolves No. 156), State government, the nonprofit sector, and the private sector have partnered to establish Age Strong VT, Vermont's first multisector plan on aging, which was released in January 2024, and

Whereas, Age Strong VT focuses on the State's changing age demographics through an examination of affordable aging; healthy aging for all; social connection; infrastructure for the future, including housing, transportation, and community design; elder justice; family caregiver support; and strengthening overall systems of support, and

Whereas, the Departments of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and of Health are jointly overseeing an Age Strong VT implementation process that is now in its third year and that involves other State offices, local communities, and other organizations, including the General Assembly, and

Whereas, the designation of a specific day during Older Americans Month to celebrate the Age Strong VT initiative will serve to emphasize the project's societal importance, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes May 2026 as Older Americans Month and designates May 6, 2026, as Age Strong Vermont Day, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, and to the Commissioner of Health.