

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 182

Offered by Representatives White of Waitsfield, Arsenault of Williston, Brown of Richmond, Dolan of Essex Junction, Goldman of Rockingham, Houghton of Essex Junction, Hunter of Manchester, Keyser of Rutland City, Kimbell of Woodstock, Krowinski of Burlington, Lipsky of Stowe, McCoy of Poultney, Morrow of Weston, Ode of Burlington, Sibilia of Dover, Stone of Burlington, Sweeney of Shelburne, Torre of Moretown, Waters Evans of Charlotte, and Wells of Brownington

House concurrent resolution designating February 5, 2026, as Outdoor Recreation Day at the State House

Whereas, Vermont is proud of its unparalleled and diverse natural landscape and communities tied to outdoor recreation that are world-class tourism destinations, and

Whereas, our State's outdoor recreational assets consist of more than 11,500 miles of public access trails, including 217 miles of recreational rail trails; 135,000 acres of wildlife management areas; 239,000 acres of State forests and parks; 99 picnic/day-use areas; 196 fishing access points; and 20 alpine and 30 cross-country ski areas, and

Whereas, ninety-three percent of Vermonters annually participate in outdoor recreation, and in 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 77, the General Assembly designated skiing and snowboarding as the State's official winter sports, and

Whereas, it is important that Vermont welcomes everyone to enjoy outdoor recreational pursuits, and outdoor recreational venues embrace the intrinsic community values of inclusion and representation, and

Whereas, outdoor recreation creates business opportunities, attracts new residents, and offers workforce pathways that incentivize young Vermonters to remain in the State, and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, in fiscal year 2023, businesses in all 14 counties involved in outdoor recreation generated \$2.1 billion in economic impact, and the industry employed over 16,000 persons, comprising just over five percent of the Vermont workforce, and

Whereas, Move Forward Together Vermont, Vermont's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, establishes a vision to foster healthy and vibrant communities through outdoor recreation, and

Whereas, Vermont Outdoor Recreation Day is an occasion to celebrate the importance of outdoor recreation to Vermont's landscape, economy, quality of life, and the mental and physical well-being of Vermonters and visitors, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates February 5, 2026, as Vermont Outdoor Recreation 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 Secretary of Commerce and Community Development; the Secretary of Natural Resources; the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation; and the Commissioner of Tourism and Marketing.