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H.332

Introduced by Representative Wood of Waterbury

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: General provisions; commemorative days; Developmental Disabilities
Independence Day

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to designate
November 17 as Developmental Disabilities Independence Day to
commemorate the closing of the Brandon Training School on that date in 1993.

An act relating to the establishment of Developmental Disabilities
Independence Day

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

(a) 18 V.S.A § 8722 defines a developmental disability as “a severe,
chronic disability of a person that is manifested before the person reaches
18 years of age and results in: intellectual disability, autism, or pervasive
developmental disorder.”

(b) From 1915 until 1993, individuals diagnosed with a condition
approximating the modern definition of a developmental disability were placed

1 in the Brandon Training School, an institution whose treatment of these
2 individuals ran counter to the principles of care that are central to the
3 contemporary Vermont Developmental Disabilities Act.

4 (c) The former Department of Developmental Health and Mental Health
5 Services, working in conjunction with the Vermont Disability Law Project,
6 community developmental services, and designated and specialized service
7 agencies, worked to close the Brandon Training School. As a result of their
8 successful unified effort, all the residents of the Brandon Training School were
9 moved to local communities, ending Vermont's reliance on institutional
10 services for persons with developmental disabilities as of November 17, 1993.

11 (d) In commemoration of this pivotal event in the history of the State's
12 treatment of individuals with developmental disabilities, the date of the closure
13 should be commemorated annually.

14 Sec. 2. 1 V.S.A. § 378 is added to read:

15 § 378. DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES INDEPENDENCE DAY

16 The 17th of November of each year is designated as "Developmental
17 Disabilities Independence Day."

18 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.