

**No. R-14. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 240th anniversary of the Vermont Republic.**

(H.C.R.7)

Offered by: Representatives Devereux of Mount Holly, Deen of Westminster, and Mrowicki of Putney

Offered by: Senators Balint and White

Whereas, in 1749, New Hampshire Royal Governor Benning Wentworth issued his first New Hampshire Grant charter (within the future boundaries of the State of Vermont) for the town of Bennington, and other charters followed; in 1763, the Province of New York started to issue grants that conflicted with those of New Hampshire; and, in 1764, King George III decreed that the New York grants took precedence, and

Whereas, Ethan Allen formed the Green Mountain Boys to defend the territorial integrity of the New Hampshire Grants, and

Whereas, the need to take a more assertive political action against the British led to delegates from 28 of the New Hampshire Grant towns convening on January 15, 1777, in the town of Westminster, and

Whereas, this convention issued a declaration of independence stating “the district . . . known by the name . . . of the New-Hampshire grants . . . is . . . to be considered as a free and independent jurisdiction, or state; by the name . . . of New-Connecticut; alias Vermont: And that the inhabitants . . . shall be entitled to the same privileges, immunities, and enfranchisements as . . . the free citizens and denizens . . . of any of the free and independent states of America,” and

Whereas, one of the signatories of this declaration was Thomas Chittenden, who became the first Governor of Vermont, and

Whereas, the convention also petitioned the Continental Congress for New-Connecticut’s admission as a state, a goal that would not be achieved until March 4, 1791, when the U.S. Congress admitted Vermont as our nation’s 14th State, and

Whereas, during these 14 years, Vermont effectively functioned as an independent republic, coining money, operating a postal system, and performing other duties associated with an independent nation, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 240th anniversary of the Vermont Republic, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Historical Society and to the Westminster Town Clerk.