

No. R-40. House concurrent resolution designating Wednesday, January 25, 2017 as School Choice Day in Vermont.

(H.C.R.23)

Offered by: Representatives Strong of Albany, Ainsworth of Royalton, Bancroft of Westford, Baser of Bristol, Batchelor of Derby, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Beyor of Highgate, Brennan of Colchester, Canfield of Fair Haven, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Cupoli of Rutland City, Devereux of Mount Holly, Frenier of Chelsea, Gage of Rutland City, Hebert of Vernon, Higley of Lowell, Hubert of Milton, Keefe of Manchester, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lefebvre of Newark, Lewis of Berlin, Marcotte of Coventry, Martel of Waterford, Morrissey of Bennington, Myers of Essex, Nolan of Morristown, Parent of St. Albans Town, Pearce of Richford, Quimby of Concord, Rosenquist of Georgia, Savage of Swanton, Scheuermann of Stowe, Shaw of Pittsford, Smith of Derby, Smith of New Haven, Tate of Mendon, Troiano of Stannard, Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh, Viens of Newport City, and Willhoit of St. Johnsbury

Whereas, Vermont has a vibrant and diverse educational system, consisting of public, private, and independent schools as well as homeschooling, and

Whereas, since 1869, when the General Assembly enacted 1869 Acts and Resolves No. 9, “An act to authorize school districts to send scholars to academies in certain cases named therein,” students and parents in Vermont have availed themselves of school tuitioning, and

Whereas, according to EdChoice, an education reform organization, as a result of this act, Vermont has the oldest school tuitioning program in the nation, and

Whereas, EdChoice also reported that during the 2014–2015 school year 3,350 students, 435 public and independent schools, and, according to an Ethan Allen Institute report, 93 municipalities were participating in Vermont’s tuitioning program, and

Whereas, Vermont’s school choice system in tuitioning towns gives parents of all races, incomes, and backgrounds the opportunity to place their child in the most suitable learning environment for that child, giving the child the best chance to succeed in school and later in life, and

Whereas, the competition for school choice has been shown to provide a valuable incentive for all schools to meet diverse educational needs, thus better serving all students, and

Whereas, the week of January 22–28, 2017 is being observed as National School Choice Week in many states, and many school choice participants are visiting the State House today, Wednesday, January 25, 2017, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates Wednesday, January 25, 2017 as School Choice Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the State Board of Education, the Agency of Education, the Vermont School Boards Association, and the Vermont Independent Schools Association.