

**No. R-142. House concurrent resolution recognizing May 12, 2011 as
“Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy Day” in Vermont.**

(H.C.R.40)

Offered by: Representatives Lewis of Derby and Helm of Fair Haven

Offered by: Senator Mullin

Whereas, Vermonters recognize the importance of diagnosing and treating diabetes and of educating the public concerning its complications, and

Whereas, diabetes can result in diabetic peripheral neuropathy (DPN), a serious condition that damages nerves due to prolonged exposure to high amounts of glucose in the bloodstream, and

Whereas, DPN accounts for more diabetes-related hospitalizations than any other complication, and

Whereas, in the United States, 23.6 million people, or 7.8 percent of the population, including 33,000 adults in Vermont, or 6.2 percent of the state’s population, have diabetes, and

Whereas, in 2006, the cost of diabetes for Vermonters was estimated at \$346,800,000, including both medical expenses and the value of lost productivity, and

Whereas, DPN can occur whether a person has Type I diabetes, also known as juvenile diabetes, or Type II diabetes, which typically begins in adulthood, and

Whereas, the American Diabetes Association estimates that about 60 to 70 percent of persons with diabetes have mild to severe forms of nervous system damage due to DPN, which often causes intense pain, and

Whereas, 64 percent of diabetic nerve pain sufferers reported experiencing pain that interfered with daily activities, and 80 percent reported mobility problems, and

Whereas, diabetic nerve pain may cause difficulty for people to remain physically active and to exercise, a critical component of diabetes management, and can contribute to worsening glycemic control which can result in further health problems including more nerve damage, and

Whereas, according to the American Diabetes Association, diabetic patients should be screened for DPN at least annually, and

Whereas, public awareness efforts explaining the many dangers that diabetes poses as well as the effects of DPN, its symptoms, and preventive measures are essential, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes May 12, 2011 as “Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy Day” in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the American Diabetes Association in Colchester.