

No. R-357. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of the town of Bristol.

(H.C.R.280)

Offered by: Representatives Sharpe of Bristol and Fisher of Lincoln

Offered by: Senators Ayer and Giard

Whereas, on June 26, 1762, the Royal Governor of New Hampshire granted to a group of proprietors a charter for a tract of land to consist of 23,600 acres, and each proprietor was instructed to cultivate within a period of five years five acres of every 50 acres granted, and

Whereas, the tract's boundaries were described as "Beginning at the North Easterly Corner of New Haven from thence South six Miles by New Haven . . . to the south Easterly Corner thereof, then turning off & runing East, four Miles & one half Mile to a marked Tree . . . ," and

Whereas, the township was named Pocock and was not renamed Bristol until the Vermont General Assembly passed an act that became effective on October 21, 1789, enacted possibly in recognition of settlers from Bristol, Connecticut, and

Whereas, although the charter provided for the first town meeting to be conducted on the first Wednesday in August 1762, the first actual organizational meeting of the town's citizens did not take place until March 2, 1789, at which Henry McLaughlin was chosen moderator and clerk, and

Whereas, the first of three log cabin schoolhouses was erected in 1789, and the first religious congregation organized in Bristol was the Baptist Church in 1794, and

Whereas, agriculture was an important economic activity in Bristol as were mills, with the first sawmill established by Amos Scott in 1791, and the first gristmill was erected in 1792, and

Whereas, the town hall known as Holley Hall was opened in 1884 and included a 500-seat meeting room for town meetings and other events, and

Whereas, for nearly a century starting in 1879, Bristol's residents kept informed of local happenings from the *Bristol Herald*, and beginning in 1892 the six-mile-long Bristol Railroad was operating from Bristol to New Haven, and for many years the town had its own airport, and

Whereas, Bristol is now a commercial center in Addison County; since 1968, it has been the home of Mount Abraham Union High School, located at the site of the former Bristol Airport; and 2012 marks the sesquicentennial of Bristol's chartering, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 250th anniversary of the town of Bristol, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Bristol town clerk.