

State of Vermont

House of Representatives

Montpelier, Vermont



Joint House Resolution

J.R.H. 2

Joint resolution commending Vermont municipalities that have adopted or are considering adopting sanctuary status

Offered by: Representatives Ancel of Calais, Bartholomew of Hartland, Baser of Bristol, Botzow of Pownal, Briglin of Thetford, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Carr of Brandon, Christie of Hartford, Conlon of Cornwall, Conquest of Newbury, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Dakin of Colchester, Deen of Westminster, Donahue of Northfield, Dunn of Essex, Emmons of Springfield, Gannon of Wilmington, Grad of Moretown, Greshin of Warren, Haas of Rochester, Hooper of Montpelier, Jessup of Middlesex, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lippert of Hinesburg, Long of Newfane, Lucke of Hartford, Masland of Thetford, McCormack of Burlington, Morris of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Olsen of Londonderry, Partridge of Windham, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Scheu of Middlebury, Sharpe of Bristol, Sibilia of Dover, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Burlington, Till of Jericho, Toleno of Brattleboro, Townsend of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, Webb of Shelburne, Wood of Waterbury, Yantachka of Charlotte, and Young of Glover

Whereas, American jurisdictions outside Vermont, including numerous counties, as well as the cities of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Chicago, Illinois, have adopted formal sanctuary city policies, and Boston, Massachusetts; New York, New York; and Los Angeles, California, have implemented some type of immigration status protections, and

Whereas, in Vermont, the Montpelier City Council passed a resolution authorizing the city to adopt a sanctuary city policy, and sanctuary city policies are being considered in Burlington, South Burlington, Winooski, and other towns, and

Whereas, undocumented residents of Vermont confront the constant fear that if deported they may face political persecution and potentially physical harm in their countries of origin, and

Whereas, the General Assembly enacted 2014 Acts and Resolves No 193 (the Act), requiring that by July 1, 2016, the State's municipalities adopt the mandatory provisions of the Criminal Justice Training Council's impartial model policing policy, including not asking persons about their immigration status, and

Whereas, the Act did allow the State's municipalities to refrain from adopting the optional provisions of the model policy, such as disregarding federal requests to detain undocumented residents, and

Whereas, Grand Isle County and the towns of Milton and Williston have adopted the model policy in full, and

Whereas, throughout the world, millions of people are displaced by war, violence, economic or political strife, and natural disasters and are forced to seek safety and a better life elsewhere, and

Whereas, Vermont has a long tradition of protecting the politically threatened, dating to its official refusal prior to the Civil War to cooperate with federal fugitive slave acts and Vermonters' participation in the Underground Railroad that assisted escaped slaves fleeing to Canada, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commends Vermont municipalities that have adopted or are considering adopting sanctuary status, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, Governor Phil Scott, and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.