

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Joint House Resolution

J.R.H. 18

Joint resolution relating to certain financial and managerial policies of the University of Vermont

Offered by: Representative Turner of Milton

Whereas, the General Assembly chartered the University of Vermont on November 3, 1791 for providing higher public education, and

Whereas, the Vermont Agricultural College was created in accordance with Act 96 of 1864, and

Whereas, under the authority of Act 71 of 1945, these two institutions of higher education were unified into a single educational entity that has garnered great esteem among the citizens of Vermont, and

Whereas, the University of Vermont, notwithstanding the respect it has earned in this state and notwithstanding its unusual legal status and autonomy that combine attributes of both a legislatively chartered private corporation and an instrumentality of the state, should be a responsible institutional citizen in the conduct of its organizational operations and the management of its financial affairs, and

Whereas, the difficult economic times through which our state and nation are living only magnify the need for financial prudence and responsibility at the university, and

Whereas, under these circumstances, recent managerial and financial decisions at the University of Vermont warrant closer examination by the board of trustees of the university, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly strongly urges that:

1) The University of Vermont board of trustees affirm and encourage the process it has initiated as a full board and through its governance and audit committee responsibilities and that is guided by the federal Sarbanes–Oxley Act and the recently passed federal Higher Education Act’s reauthorization to continue to examine and thoroughly update the university’s audit process, to continually update the strategic plan and financial plan, to ensure compliance with federal and state law, and to annually evaluate the performance and compensation of the president in accordance with the trustees’ newly adopted protocol for annual review of the compensation of senior officials;

2) Any program or activity at the University of Vermont that is proposed for elimination and that has an annual budget that equals or exceeds a prudent monetary threshold the trustees have set be subject to a vote of the trustees prior to its elimination, and that the trustees endeavor to include a listing of these decisions in the annual financial report of the university;

3) The University of Vermont continue to make every effort to increase the number of Vermonters in the student body who meet admission stands as the university charter directs, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the president of the University of Vermont and to the chair of the University of Vermont board of trustees.