

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

**ADDENDUM**

**TO THE**

**HOUSE CALENDAR**

**Text of House Concurrent  
Resolutions**

**of**

**May 8, 2025**

## **Concurrent Resolutions for Adoption Under Joint Rules 16a -16d**

The following concurrent resolutions will be adopted automatically unless a Senator or Representative requests floor consideration in the member's chamber prior to adjournment of the next legislative day. Requests for floor consideration in either chamber should be communicated to the Senate Secretary's Office or the House Clerk's Office, as applicable.

### **H.C.R. 130**

Offered by Representative Casey of Montpelier

House concurrent resolution commemorating the bicentennial of the 1824–1825 Farewell American tour of the Marquis de Lafayette

*Whereas*, Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier de La Fayette, best known as the Marquis de Lafayette, was a French aristocrat who, audaciously, at 19 years of age, set sail for America and amazingly persuaded Congress to commission him as a major general in the Continental Army, and

*Whereas*, Lafayette fought bravely in the Battles of Brandywine, where he was wounded, and Rhode Island, before returning to France to lobby the French government to increase support for the American cause, and

*Whereas*, upon his return to the United States, Lafayette, leading a contingent of American troops, blocked British General Lord Cornwallis's early action during the decisive Battle of Yorktown, and

*Whereas*, Lafayette long aspired someday to return to the nation whose independence he helped secure, and in 1824, President James Monroe and Congress invited Lafayette to tour the country, in celebration of the Revolutionary War's 50th anniversary, which became a 24-state sojourn beginning in New York on August 15, 1824 and concluding in Burlington on June 29, 1825, and

*Whereas*, Lafayette arrived in Vermont on June 28, 1825, was welcomed at an early morning ceremony in Windsor, journeyed through Hartland to an event in Woodstock, traveled via East Barnard on his way to Royalton, where more official greetings awaited, and continued through Tunbridge to Barre, from where a more elaborate entourage accompanied him to Montpelier, and from the first State House's balcony he observed a military procession, delivered a speech in the Assembly's chamber, and attended a grand banquet in his honor, and a historic marker now commemorates Lafayette's Montpelier visit, and

*Whereas*, on June 29, 1825, Lafayette's American tour, after passing through Williston, concluded in Burlington, where the festivities consisted of

large receptions, laying the cornerstone of the University of Vermont's Old Mill building, greetings from Governor Van Ness, and the delivery of the English-fluent Frenchman's carefully written farewell America speech of appreciation and reflection, and

*Whereas*, the American Friends of Lafayette has organized a bicentennial recreation of the 19th-century tour, following the original route to the day, including all the Vermont stops on June 28–29, 2025, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly commemorates the bicentennial of the 1824–1825 Farewell American tour of the Marquis de Lafayette, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the American Friends of Lafayette.

**H.C.R. 131**

Offered by Representatives Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Burke of Brattleboro, and Goodnow of Brattleboro

Offered by Senators Harrison and Hashim

House concurrent resolution congratulating Westgate Housing Inc. of Brattleboro on the nonprofit corporation's 25th anniversary

*Whereas*, the story of Westgate Housing Inc. is the saga of residents determined to continue residing in their affordable rental housing units and becoming actively involved in their community's management, and

*Whereas*, Westgate was privately constructed in 1971 as a 98-unit rental housing complex pursuant to a contract with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that guaranteed the units would remain affordable for 20–40 years, and

*Whereas*, after the initial 20-year contractual period expired, it was apparent that significant rent increases were looming that would force most residents to find alternative housing, and

*Whereas*, during the 1990s, the Westgate Tenants Association began organizing with the goal of avoiding Westgate's gentrification and the resulting involuntary departures from their community, and

*Whereas*, in 2000, following considerable effort, a coalition of nonprofit organizations under the combined leadership of Housing Vermont and Westgate residents purchased the property, and the groups formed the new nonprofit Westgate Housing Inc. (WHI) to own and manage the property, and

*Whereas*, since December 2000, Housing Vermont and WHI have acted as partners in Westgate’s ownership, retaining rents considerably below market rates and providing the residents with input in the community’s management, and

*Whereas*, the percentage of the WHI Board’s resident membership continued to increase, reaching 100 percent in 2009, the intended permanent organizational structure, and

*Whereas*, consequently, Westgate is one of the few resident-controlled rental housing developments in the United States, and

*Whereas*, the resulting residential pride has led to a vibrant community that takes responsibility for its operation and maintains a high level of neighborhood quality and civic engagement, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly congratulates Westgate Housing Inc. of Brattleboro on the nonprofit corporation’s 25th anniversary, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to WHI.

**H.C.R. 132**

Offered by Representatives Bosch of Clarendon and Burditt of West Rutland

Offered by Senators Collamore, Weeks, and Williams

House concurrent resolution congratulating the West Rutland High School Golden Horde girls’ basketball team on winning a fourth consecutive Division IV championship

*Whereas*, over the last four seasons, the on-court expertise and precision of the Golden Horde has greatly impressed the team’s opponents, and

*Whereas*, as the Division IV titleholder in 2022, 2023, and 2024, West Rutland, with a roster featuring the all-time scorer in Vermont girls’ high school basketball, was eager to extend this championship streak in 2025, and

*Whereas*, in the 2025 championship game, played at the Barre Auditorium, the top-seeded Golden Horde were matched against the second-ranked Long Trail School Mountain Lions, and

*Whereas*, the game’s only mystery was the exact final score, as West Rutland commanded the scoreboard throughout, expanding a 21–6 halftime lead into a 46–21 victory, and

*Whereas*, the truly extraordinary Golden horde basketball mavens were Peyton Guay, Isabella Coombs, Kennah Wright-Chapman, Aubrey Beaulieu, Camryn Williams, Maggie Therrien, Hayley Raiche, Bradee Traverse, Isabella Griffith, Myra Rocke, Brianna Gallipo, and Emma Haley, and

*Whereas*, Head Coach Carl Serrani; Assistant Coach Matt Serrani; student managers Kylie Duel, Jaquira Earley, and Sadie McGee; and Athletic Trainer Zach Royer each contributed to the great 2024–2025 Golden Horde season, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly congratulates the West Rutland High School Golden Horde girls' basketball team on winning a fourth consecutive Division IV championship, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to West Rutland High School.

**H.C.R. 133**

Offered by Representatives Burditt of West Rutland and Bosch of Clarendon

Offered by Senators Collamore, Weeks, and Williams

House concurrent resolution congratulating West Rutland High School girls' basketball standout Peyton Guay and extending to her best wishes for every future success

*Whereas*, the prolific basketball career of Peyton Guay has always been focused on her team, the West Rutland High School Golden Horde, and

*Whereas*, despite her modesty and team focus, were it not for the presence of this outstanding player, the Golden Horde would never have compiled its amazing four-year consecutive string of Division IV crowns (2022–2025), and

*Whereas*, there is no doubt Peyton Guay has written a new page of achievements in the history of Vermont girls' high school basketball that will not easily be surpassed, and

*Whereas*, from the day Peyton Guay first walked onto the hardwood court as a ninth grader, her coaches and teammates knew she possessed an extraordinary talent for playing the game, as she demonstrated a keen ability to score from the field and at the foul line, and

*Whereas*, her unique leadership, combining exemplary talent with a genuine desire to share the ball with her teammates, contributed to West Rutland’s astounding 86–8 win-loss record over the past four seasons, and

*Whereas*, Peyton Guay’s personal statistics, averaging 21.3 points per game and scoring 2,279 points, the most ever of any Vermont girls’ high school basketball player, are outstanding, and her contribution of assists is equally impressive, and

*Whereas*, the conclusion of her time as a Golden Horde player hardly ends her basketball playing days, as Peyton Guay eagerly anticipates embarking on an exciting new path as a college basketball player in Florida, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly congratulates West Rutland High School girls’ basketball standout Peyton Guay and extends to her best wishes for every future success, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Peyton Guay.

**H.C.R. 134**

Offered by Representatives Marcotte of Coventry, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Cooper of Pownal, Duke of Burlington, Graning of Jericho, Lipsky of Stowe, Micklus of Milton, Morgan, L. of Milton, Nelson of Derby, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Olson of Starksboro, Priestley of Bradford, and White of Bethel

House concurrent resolution honoring Cassandra Polhemus for her exemplary leadership of the Vermont Economic Development Authority

*Whereas*, in 1974, the General Assembly established the Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA) “to contribute to Vermont’s economic vitality by providing a broad array of financing programs to eligible businesses that create jobs,” and

*Whereas*, since 2019, Cassie Polhemus, an economics graduate of Williams College, has served as VEDA’s extraordinary chief executive officer, overseeing the organization’s increase in lending commitments from \$2.5 to \$2.8 billion, and

*Whereas*, Cassie Polhemus’s record of achievement at VEDA predates her current role, as she joined the staff in 2013 as a commercial lender, and this

talented employee rose through the ranks, being named director of operations in 2014, selected as chief operating officer in 2017, and in 2019, appointed as chief executive officer, and

*Whereas*, when the pandemic struck in the late winter of 2020, Cassie Polhemus immediately and effectively oversaw VEDA’s seamless transition to a paperless/hybrid work environment, and she responded to this unanticipated crisis in a manner that ensured entrepreneurial economic continuity and revitalization in as short a time frame as possible, and

*Whereas*, VEDA’s notable pandemic-related accomplishments under her outstanding supervision were, in 2020, rolling out a \$2.3 million farm operating loan program; in 2020–2021, closing 1,040 Paycheck Protection Program loans worth \$45.4 million; in 2023, assisting over 200 small businesses and farmers to move closer to their pre-pandemic financial status with \$19 million from the Short Term Forgivable Loan Program and accessing \$58 million worth of American Rescue Plan funding to reauthorize the State Small Business Credit Initiative; and post-pandemic, in 2024, Cassie Polhemus oversaw VEDA’s creation of the new Forestry Loan Program, and

*Whereas*, in 2025, Cassie Polhemus, who is concluding her VEDA leadership role on June 30 and is highly respected among her professional colleagues, was the deserved recipient of the federal Small Business Administration’s Financial Services Champion Award, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly honors Cassandra Polhemus for her exemplary leadership of the Vermont Economic Development Authority, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Cassie Polhemus.

**H.C.R. 135**

Offered by Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Greer of Bennington, and Nigro of Bennington

Offered by Senators Bongartz and Plunkett

House concurrent resolution honoring esteemed Bennington Rural Firefighter Timothy Burgess

*Whereas*, Timothy Burgess has been a hard-working Bennington Rural Fire Department (BRFD) member since 1976 and an exemplary fire prevention advocate and educator both locally and statewide, and

*Whereas*, his keen interest in firefighting was apparent from the moment he joined the department, as he performed his duties diligently and enthusiastically, rising through the ranks from an entry-level firefighter to lieutenant, to captain, and, ultimately, assistant chief, and

*Whereas*, Tim Burgess's numerous departmental roles have included serving as the organization's president, and as a member of the truck committee, he repeatedly traveled out of state to review progress on the construction of new fire trucks, and

*Whereas*, his involvement in the world of fire prevention has extended beyond his own department, as president of the Bennington County Mutual Aid Association Inc. and through his active membership in the New England Association of Fire Chiefs and the Vermont State Firefighters' Association (VSFA), and

*Whereas*, as a lifetime member of VSFA, he served as a Bennington County representative, encouraged young firefighters to enroll in Vermont Fire Academy training classes, judged fire truck and firefighting competitions, arranged for annual meetings throughout the State, served as sergeant at arms for annual meetings, and served on the scholarship committee that financially assists young individuals starting first-responder careers, and one year, the VSFA yearbook was dedicated to him, in recognition of his outstanding service, and

*Whereas*, Tim Burgess's interest in educating future firefighters led to his involvement with the Southern Vermont Regional Fire School, and he traveled to area schools for fire safety presentations, and, in appreciation of these initiatives, Mt. Anthony Union Middle School recognized him as a Hometown Hero, and

*Whereas*, at the BRFD 2025 annual dinner, his colleagues will pay special tribute to Tim Burgess for his exemplary service to the department and the Vermont firefighting and prevention community, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly honors esteemed Bennington Rural Firefighter Timothy Burgess, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Tim Burgess.

## H.C.R. 136

Offered by Representatives Berbeco of Winooski and Tomlinson of Winooski

House concurrent resolution congratulating Mapenzi Selemani of Winooski on winning the 2025 Poetry Out Loud Vermont State championship and commemorating the 20th anniversary of Poetry Out Loud

*Whereas*, Poetry Out Loud is a nationwide high school poetry recitation competition that receives national support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, and locally, the Vermont Arts Council and the Flynn in Burlington are essential facilitators, and

*Whereas*, high school students across the country participate in a dynamic poetry recitation competition “that is designed to improve their public speaking skills, help build confidence, and teach them about literary history and contemporary life,” and

*Whereas*, since Poetry Out Loud began, more than 4.5 million students in the United States from 21,000 schools, and with the support of 85,000 teachers, have participated, and

*Whereas*, this year’s State competition proved an exhilarating adventure, highlighting the joys of dramatically reciting a poet’s written words, and

*Whereas*, this nationwide cavalcade of poetic verbalization begins in local classrooms, 24 in Vermont this year, where eager young orators, 3,200 in the State and 157,000 nationwide, declaimed their soliloquies of poems or sonnets, and

*Whereas*, the judges at the State finals listened with rapt attention and declared Mapenzi Selemani, a junior at Winooski High School, who presented Thomas Hood’s “I Remember, I Remember” and William Wordsworth’s “The World is Too Much With Us”, as the 2025 Poetry Out Loud Vermont State champion and Vermont’s representative at the national competition, *now therefore be it*

### ***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly congratulates Mapenzi Selemani of Winooski on winning the 2025 Poetry Out Loud Vermont State championship and commemorates the 20th anniversary of Poetry Out Loud, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Mapenzi Selemani, the Flynn, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and the Vermont Arts Council.

## H.C.R. 137

Offered by Representatives Krowinski of Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Duke of Burlington, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, Kleppner of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, and Stone of Burlington

House concurrent resolution celebrating the 40th anniversary of Robin's Nest Children's Center in Burlington's Old North End

*Whereas*, the origin of Robin's Nest Children's Center (Robin's Nest), a special place for the youngest children to learn and play in a welcoming and supportive environment, dates from the spring of 1985 when a Burlington early childhood program announced its closure, and

*Whereas*, this decision impacted the parents of the enrolled youngsters, whose daily lives depended on the availability of a trusted child care facility, and the staff who would lose their jobs, and

*Whereas*, in response to this pending familial and employment dilemma, a group of parents coalesced to develop a replacement option, resulting in the creation of Robin's Nest, and

*Whereas*, their goal was to establish "a program where children received quality early education, families could find support through a diverse community with others who looked like their own, and a place where early educators would be respectfully compensated," and

*Whereas*, this collaborative planning process proved productive, and later in 1985, Robin's Nest opened its doors to "provide quality care and education in multi-age groups with high ratios of adults to children...[enabling] children to travel through developmental stages at their own rate and to learn from one another," and

*Whereas*, this core objective is reflected in Robin's Nest's mission to "provide a play-based environment for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers; nurturing minds, friendships, and families," and

*Whereas*, in 2025, Robin's Nest marks 40 years of early childhood care and educational excellence and now serves 31 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, representing 23 families, with the caring support of nine dedicated teachers, and

*Whereas*, the diverse enrolled population includes 35 percent who are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, or Persons of Color) and 65 percent receive monetary support from the State's Child Care Financial Assistance Program, and

*Whereas*, the vision of 40 years ago remains a thriving reality, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly celebrates the 40th anniversary of Robin's Nest Children's Center in Burlington's Old North End, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Robin's Nest.

**H.C.R. 138**

Offered by Representative Bluemle of Burlington

House concurrent resolution honoring Christine J. Brock for her 52 years of dedicated public service on the staff of the Vermont Judiciary

*Whereas*, in 1973, at 20 years of age, Christine Brock became an administrative assistant at the Vermont Supreme Court, commencing a career in State government that continued for an amazing 52 years, and

*Whereas*, from her entry-level position at the Vermont Supreme Court, she moved on to the Vermont District Court, initially in Franklin County and later in Chittenden County, serving in each instance as a deputy clerk, and

*Whereas*, Christine Brock worked closely with former State Representative Amy Davenport, prior to Representative Davenport's appointment as a judge, to assist in the creation of the Vermont Family Court, and

*Whereas*, the next step in Christine Brock's career was serving as the manager in Chittenden County for the District and Family Courts, and

*Whereas*, one of her career accomplishments was playing an instrumental role in the development of the Agency of Digital Services' computer docketing system, and

*Whereas*, following the major reorganization of the Vermont trial court system, Christine Brock accepted the new challenge of serving as the Superior Court clerk for the Chittenden Unit, and

*Whereas*, along with several members of the trial and Supreme Court benches, she assisted in the development of the Vermont Judiciary's Access and Resource Center, and

*Whereas*, following an exciting and eventful 52-year career in the Judicial Branch of State government, Christine Brock has now concluded her Vermont Judiciary employment and is enjoying time at home in Milton with her husband, Tom, and their children and grandchild, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly honors Christine J. Brock for her 52 years of dedicated public service on the staff of the Vermont Judiciary, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Christine Brock.

**H.C.R. 139**

Offered by Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Goodnow of Brattleboro, and Kornheiser of Brattleboro

Offered by Senators Harrison and Hashim

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Brattleboro Area Farmers' Market on its 50th anniversary

*Whereas*, farmers markets are a special venue for local agricultural and culinary producers to market their edible products and for artisans to display and sell their creations, and

*Whereas*, they serve as the ideal setting to act on the slogan "buy local" and to participate in an event that exudes community spirit and often features the accompaniment of vocalists and instrumentalists presenting the best of local musical talent, and

*Whereas*, one of Vermont's premier and oldest farmers' markets is the vendor-owned Brattleboro Area Farmers' Market (originally the Brattleboro Farmers' Market), which was established on a small scale in 1975, and

*Whereas*, the Brattleboro Area Farmers' Market's continued growth has included an expansion in the number of vendors and activities and has prompted several relocations to accommodate its popularity, and

*Whereas*, every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. starting in May and continuing through October at 570 Western Avenue (Route 9), the Brattleboro Area Farmers' Market convenes for five hours of commerce, enjoyment, and good cheer, and

*Whereas*, in 2006, the success of this three-season event sparked the creation of a separate winter companion, and

*Whereas*, on Saturday, May 17, 2025, the Brattleboro Area Farmers' Market will conduct a commemorative ceremony to mark its half-century milestone of serving the community as a place to purchase locally produced foods and crafts, enjoy great music, and meet neighbors old and new, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly congratulates the Brattleboro Area Farmers' Market on its 50th anniversary, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Brattleboro Area Farmers' Market.

**H.C.R. 140**

Offered by Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Greer of Bennington, and Nigro of Bennington

Offered by Senators Bongartz and Plunkett

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army and honoring the U.S. Army veterans in residence at the Vermont Veterans' Home

*Whereas*, on June 14, 1775, more than a year before the issuance of the Declaration of Independence, the Second Continental Congress adopted a resolution providing "that six companies of expert riflemen, be immediately raised in Pennsylvania, two in Maryland, and two in Virginia," thus establishing the Continental Army (the forerunner of the U.S. Army), and

*Whereas*, on June 15, 1775, the Second Continental Congress unanimously selected George Washington as the new organization's commander-in-chief, and

*Whereas*, since its inception, the motto of the U.S. Army has been "This We'll Defend," signifying an unwavering commitment to safeguard the nation's freedom and democracy against all threats, and

*Whereas*, the Continental Army was disbanded after the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783, and on September 29, 1789, Congress enacted an *Act to recognize and adapt to the Constitution of the United States the establishment of the Troops*, the statutory foundation for today's U.S. Army, but June 14, 1775 is observed as the birthday of the U.S. Army, and many commemorative events will occur, including the issuance of commemorative U.S. postage stamps and coins, and

*Whereas*, the Vermont Veterans' Home in Bennington was established in 1884 to provide a caring and dignified residence for veterans of the Civil War, and

*Whereas*, in 2025, there are 35 residents and seven staff members at the Vermont Veterans' Home who are honorably discharged U.S. Army veterans,

and they are observing the 250th anniversary of their military service's establishment, as is the entire nation, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly commemorates the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army and honors the U.S. Army veterans in residence at the Vermont Veterans' Home, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Veterans' Home.