

No. R-277. House concurrent resolution designating January 2018 as School Board Recognition Month.

(H.C.R.221)

Offered by: Representatives LaLonde of South Burlington, Baser of Bristol, Belaski of Windsor, Bock of Chester, Botzow of Pownal, Brennan of Colchester, Brumsted of Shelburne, Buckholz of Hartford, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Canfield of Fair Haven, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christensen of Weathersfield, Christie of Hartford, Colburn of Burlington, Conlon of Cornwall, Connor of Fairfield, Conquest of Newbury, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Corcoran of Bennington, Cupoli of Rutland City, Dakin of Colchester, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donovan of Burlington, Dunn of Essex, Emmons of Springfield, Fields of Bennington, Forguites of Springfield, Giambatista of Essex, Gonzalez of Winooski, Grad of Moretown, Haas of Rochester, Harrison of Chittenden, Head of South Burlington, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Randolph, Houghton of Essex, Howard of Rutland City, Joseph of North Hero, Juskiewicz of Cambridge, Keefe of Manchester, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Krowinski of Burlington, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lefebvre of Newark, Lewis of Berlin, Lippert of Hinesburg, Long of Newfane, Macaig of Williston, Marcotte of Coventry, Mattos of Milton, McCoy of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Murphy of Fairfax, Myers of Essex, Nolan of Morrystown, Noyes of Wolcott, Ode of Burlington, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Pearce of Richford, Potter of Clarendon, Pugh of South Burlington, Savage of Swanton, Scheu of Middlebury, Scheuermann of Stowe, Sharpe of Bristol, Shaw of Pittsford, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sibilina of Dover, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, Strong of Albany, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Dorset, Sullivan of Burlington, Till of Jericho, Toleno of Brattleboro, Toll of Danville, Townsend of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, Turner of Milton, Walz of Barre City, Webb of Shelburne, Weed of Enosburgh, Wood of Waterbury, Wright of Burlington, Yacovone of Morrystown, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Whereas, the elected citizen members of Vermont's school boards are extremely dedicated public servants, and

Whereas, school board members devote countless hours to overseeing all local jurisdictional aspects of public education in Vermont and, at most, receive token monetary compensation, and

Whereas, they tackle education policy issues that are of enormous concern to school administrators, teachers, parents, students, and the citizenry at large, and

Whereas, certain matters confronting school boards may resonate strongly with a specific constituency—for example, whether a particular high school course will be offered or a varsity sport played, and

Whereas, school board members must occasionally decide potentially sensitive and divisive questions, such as whether to continue the tenure of a teacher, principal, or superintendent, and the individual whose job is in question may have both strong supporters and strong opponents, and

Whereas, although they are not the originators of State education laws and administrative directives, these locally selected public officials may experience public criticism regarding Vermont's education policies, and

Whereas, since the passage of 2015's Act 46, school board service has become more challenging, as it involves deliberations to determine the future composition of the State's school districts and boards, and

Whereas, school board members have labored with their communities many additional nights and weekends, since Act 46 was enacted, to consider how to improve the educational opportunities for their students, and

Whereas, in facing these difficult and possibly conflicting demands, school board members receive far too little praise for their public service, and

Whereas, a number of states and local communities throughout the country observe January as School Board Recognition Month in order to honor the special work of school boards, and this honor to Vermont's school boards and their members is well deserved, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates January 2018 as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont School Boards Association in Montpelier.