

**No. R-238. Joint resolution encouraging public high schools to explore recruiting and enrolling international students on F-1 student visas in order to promote tuition-based income while also exposing F-1 students and our public school K-12 Vermont students to enriched cross cultural learning experiences.**

(J.R.S.9)

*Whereas*, student enrollment in public K–12 education in the State declined over 20 percent between fiscal years 1997 and 2014, with population projections indicating a continued decline for the foreseeable future, and

*Whereas*, schools in the State have the lowest class sizes in the nation, and

*Whereas*, total State spending on education continues to escalate, increasing by three and five percent in fiscal years 2013 and 2014 respectively, so that the State has the highest per-pupil spending in the nation, and

*Whereas*, the rising cost of public education increasingly burdens taxpayers and places fiscal stresses on schools that may soon affect the quality of education provided, and

*Whereas*, federal law permits both private schools and public high schools to enroll international students on F-1 visas, which are visas issued to nonimmigrant foreigners for the purpose of academic study in the United States, but limits attendance in public high schools to 12 months and requires that F-1 students reimburse public high schools for the full unsubsidized per capita cost of their education, and

*Whereas*, international students are increasingly obtaining F-1 visas to enroll in U.S. private and public high schools, from approximately 6,500 total F-1 students in 2007 to approximately 65,000 in 2012, in order to improve English language skills and enhance opportunities to enroll in U.S. universities, and

*Whereas*, dozens of high schools in the State, including multiple public high schools, are already federally certified to enroll international students on F-1 visas, and

*Whereas*, although most international students on F-1 visas enroll in private schools, public high schools may be able to offer comparatively lower tuition rates, so that some of these students may prefer to attend public schools despite federal restrictions limiting their enrollment in public schools to 12 months, and

*Whereas*, the State has much to offer international students, including public schools ranked among the best in the nation, vibrant local communities, low crime rates, clean air and water, natural beauty, and extensive outdoor recreational opportunities, and

*Whereas*, tuition paid to public schools by international students on F-1 visas could reduce fiscal burdens on taxpayers and schools, and room and board paid by these students could financially benefit local families and communities, and

*Whereas*, public high school students could benefit from learning alongside culturally diverse international students; students attending participating public high schools in the State could receive a more global perspective that would better prepare them for postsecondary school and the workforce; and participating public high schools could attract additional students from other towns and states, and

*Whereas*, enrolling international students on F-1 visas in public high schools could help stabilize school enrollment numbers, thus increasing resources available to students or avoiding potential resource reductions, and

*Whereas*, it could be competitively advantageous to be among the earliest of public high schools to develop recruitment and enrollment programs for international students with F-1 visas, *now therefore be it*

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

That the General Assembly requests that administrators of public high schools in the State explore the possibility of recruiting and enrolling international students on F-1 visas, and that the Agency of Education encourage and support these administrators' efforts, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Rebecca Holcombe, Secretary of Education, and to the Vermont Superintendents Association for transmittal to each superintendent in the State whose school district or supervisory union includes a public high school.