

*Office of the Vermont Secretary of State*  
**Vermont State Archives**

**Veto Message: Governor Jenison  
1839 (H.6)**

**An act to incorporate the Memphremagog Literary and Theological Seminary.**

STATE OF VERMONT  
Executive Department.  
Montpelier, Vt., Nov. 2, 1839

**(H.6.)** The following communication from the Governor was read  
*to the House of Representatives:*

By the provisions of the bill herewith returned, entitled "an act to incorporate the Memphremagog Literary and Theological Seminary," the incorporation is perpetual. No power is reserved to alter or amend the act by future legislation, as the public good or the circumstances and condition of society may hereafter require. The condition of society is continually changing; that which may be expedient and for the best good of community at this time, may, reasoning from the past, in a course of years, require alteration to adapt it to the wants and wishes of our posterity. And in my view nothing but the most absolute necessity will warrant legislation of this character; that it ought never to be resorted to except when the objects in view are of such magnitude and difficulty of attainment, as to afford no other probable means of accomplishment. I am the more readily brought to this conclusion by the entire confidence I feel in the intelligence and liberality of those who may succeed us.

By leaving acts of incorporation open to future legislation, I cannot for a moment permit myself to believe that the rights or property of individuals or community will be endangered by the imposition of unnecessary or unreasonable restrictions or alterations, or that future legislators will not understand and fully appreciate the wants and wishes of society, as it may hereafter exist.

Entertaining these views, I feel it my duty to return the bill in

question to the House of Representatives in which it originated for their reconsideration.

S.H. Jenison,  
Governor

**Governor's Veto Sustained**  
**H.6, 1839**

The Governor's veto was sustained in The House :  
**Yeas 2 Nays 141**

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Sources: *The Journal of the House*, November 2, 1839 (pages 128-131)