

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 111

Reps. Paquette, Bollin, Ellison, Miller, Yaroch, Cherry, Crawford, Garza, Haadsma, Hope, Jones, Kuppa, Liberati, Sabo, Shannon, Sneller, Warren, Webber, Wittenberg and Witwer offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the
2 founding of the Michigan Municipal League.

3 Whereas, May 23, 2019, marks 120 years of the Michigan
4 Municipal League's presence in the state of Michigan; and

5 Whereas, The origins of the Michigan Municipal League were
6 initiated in 1899 when a group of mayors sought to collaborate with
7 one another and form an organization to focus on 'good government'
8 and strengthen the concept of home rule. The original bylaws
9 envisioned an organization whose purpose was "the affiliation of
10 municipal officials and the general improvement of every branch of



1 municipal administration..."; and

2 Whereas, Michigan organized a state municipal league in 1899,
3 following California, Indiana, Iowa, and Wisconsin. The
4 organization was known as the League of Michigan Municipalities,
5 and its founding members were: Adrian, Albion, Alpena, Ann Arbor,
6 Battle Creek, Bay City, Benton Harbor, Big Rapids, Cadillac,
7 Charlevoix, Charlotte, Coldwater, Detroit, Dowagiac, Eaton Rapids,
8 Flint, Grand Haven, Grand Ledge, Grand Rapids, Hillsdale, Holly,
9 Hudson, Ionia, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Ludington, Manistee,
10 Marshall, Mason, Monroe, Muskegon, Niles, Owosso, Pontiac, Port
11 Huron, Rochester, Saginaw, St. Louis, Stanton, St. Joseph, Traverse
12 City, Wyandotte, and Ypsilanti; and

13 Whereas, The League's continuity was secured in 1928 by
14 creating a permanent home in Ann Arbor, hiring a full-time
15 employee, publishing a periodical, and establishing a clearinghouse
16 of information. Harold D. Smith was the first director and built
17 the League into a statewide organization by doubling membership his
18 first year and doubling it again in his second year; and

19 Whereas, In 1957, the League expanded its presence by
20 establishing an additional consultation and research office in
21 Lansing and ten years later held its first legislative conference
22 bolstering its advocacy and coverage of municipal issues at the
23 state level; and

24 Whereas, One hundred and twenty years later, the mission
25 statement reads: "The Michigan Municipal League is dedicated to
26 making Michigan's communities better by thoughtfully innovating
27 programs, energetically connecting ideas and people, actively
28 serving members with resources and services, and passionately
29 inspiring positive change for Michigan's greatest centers of

1 potential: its communities"; and

2 Whereas, The League continues its legacy of service to meet
3 the challenges of 515 of Michigan's cities and villages; now,
4 therefore, be it

5 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
6 this legislative body commemorate the 120th anniversary of the
7 founding of the Michigan Municipal League; and be it further

8 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the
9 Michigan Municipal League as evidence of our esteem for being
10 Michigan's voice for local government over the last 120 years.