

**LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS ACT (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 169 of 1970**

**399.201a Definitions.**

Sec. 1a. As used in this act:

(a) "Alteration" means work that changes the detail of a resource but does not change its basic size or shape.

(b) "Certificate of appropriateness" means the written approval of a permit application for work that is appropriate and that does not adversely affect a resource.

(c) "Commission" means a historic district commission created by the legislative body of a local unit under section 4.

(d) "Committee" means a historic district study committee appointed by the legislative body of a local unit under section 3 or 14.

(e) "Demolition" means the razing or destruction, whether entirely or in part, of a resource and includes, but is not limited to, demolition by neglect.

(f) "Demolition by neglect" means neglect in maintaining, repairing, or securing a resource that results in deterioration of an exterior feature of the resource or the loss of structural integrity of the resource.

(g) "Denial" means the written rejection of a permit application for work that is inappropriate and that adversely affects a resource.

(h) "Department" means the department of history, arts, and libraries.

(i) "Fire alarm system" means a system designed to detect and announce the presence of fire or by-products of fire. Fire alarm system includes smoke alarms.

(j) "Historic district" means an area, or group of areas not necessarily having contiguous boundaries, that contains 1 resource or a group of resources that are related by history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture.

(k) "Historic preservation" means the identification, evaluation, establishment, and protection of resources significant in history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture.

(l) "Historic resource" means a publicly or privately owned building, structure, site, object, feature, or open space that is significant in the history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture of this state or a community within this state, or of the United States.

(m) "Local unit" means a county, city, village, or township.

(n) "Notice to proceed" means the written permission to issue a permit for work that is inappropriate and that adversely affects a resource, pursuant to a finding under section 5(6).

(o) "Open space" means undeveloped land, a naturally landscaped area, or a formal or man-made landscaped area that provides a connective link or a buffer between other resources.

(p) "Ordinary maintenance" means keeping a resource unimpaired and in good condition through ongoing minor intervention, undertaken from time to time, in its exterior condition. Ordinary maintenance does not change the external appearance of the resource except through the elimination of the usual and expected effects of weathering. Ordinary maintenance does not constitute work for purposes of this act.

(q) "Proposed historic district" means an area, or group of areas not necessarily having contiguous boundaries, that has delineated boundaries and that is under review by a committee or a standing committee for the purpose of making a recommendation as to whether it should be established as a historic district or added to an established historic district.

(r) "Repair" means to restore a decayed or damaged resource to a good or sound condition by any process. A repair that changes the external appearance of a resource constitutes work for purposes of this act.

(s) "Resource" means 1 or more publicly or privately owned historic or nonhistoric buildings, structures, sites, objects, features, or open spaces located within a historic district.

(t) "Smoke alarm" means a single-station or multiple-station alarm responsive to smoke and not connected to a system. As used in this subdivision, "single-station alarm" means an assembly incorporating a detector, the control equipment, and the alarm sounding device into a single unit, operated from a power supply either in the unit or obtained at the point of installation. "Multiple-station alarm" means 2 or more single-station alarms that are capable of interconnection such that actuation of 1 alarm causes all integrated separate audible alarms to operate.

(u) "Standing committee" means a permanent body established by the legislative body of a local unit under section 14 to conduct the activities of a historic district study committee on a continuing basis.

(v) "Work" means construction, addition, alteration, repair, moving, excavation, or demolition.

**History:** Add. 1992, Act 96, Imd. Eff. June 18, 1992;—Am. 2001, Act 67, Imd. Eff. July 24, 2001;—Am. 2004, Act 67, Imd. Eff. Apr. 20, 2004.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties of department of history, arts, and libraries or the Michigan historical center relating to the identification, certification, and preservation of historical sites to the Michigan state housing development authority, see E.R.O. No. 2009-26, compiled at MCL 399.752.

For transfer of powers and duties of the state historic preservation office relating to the identification, certification, and preservation of historical sites from the Michigan state housing development authority to the Michigan strategic fund, see E.R.O. No. 2019-3, compiled at MCL 125.1998.