

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 111

Reps. Paquette, Bollin, Ellison, Miller and Yaroch 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
11 municipal administration..."; and

12 Whereas, Michigan organized a state municipal league in 1899,



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

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

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

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

29 Whereas, The League continues its legacy of service to meet

1 the challenges of 515 of Michigan's cities and villages; now,
2 therefore, be it

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

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