

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 125

Senators Moss, Bayer, Damoose, Lindsey, Singh and Webber offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the
2 founding of the Michigan Municipal League.

3 Whereas, May 23, 2024, marks 125 years of the Michigan
4 Municipal League's presence in our state; 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

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

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

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

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

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

1 the challenges of Michigan's 280 cities, 240 villages, and five
2 urban townships; now, therefore, be it

3 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
4 body commemorate the 125th anniversary of the founding of the
5 Michigan Municipal League.