HB5653

Michigan Association of Law Libraries

RESOLUTION
to support Enactment of the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act in the State of Michigan

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Law Libraries believes that permanent public access to official, authentic legal information is critical to the legal system of the United States and the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Law Libraries holds that information published on government websites must be trustworthy and reliable; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Law Libraries promotes the idea that information on government websites must be preserved and permanently accessible, and offered to the public without charge whenever possible: and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Law Libraries has found that the State of Michigan has not yet met its responsibility to provide consistently trustworthy, reliable public access to online legal information; and

WHEREAS, the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act promulgated by the Uniform Law Commission provides a technology-neutral, outcomes-based approach to ensuring that online state legal material deemed official will be preserved and will be permanently available to the public in unaltered form; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires that if legal material is to be published only in electronic form, it must be designated official; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires that electronic legal material that has been designated official must be capable of being authenticated, preserved, and permanently accessible to the public; and

WHEREAS, members of the Michigan Association of Law Libraries have advocated for adoption of the Act and have supported similar efforts of its parent organization, the American Association of Law Libraries, be it

RESOLVED, that the Michigan Association of Law Libraries supports enactment of the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act in the State of Michigan as well as in all other states throughout the United States of America; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Michigan Association of Law Libraries encourages all regional, state, and local chapters of the American Association of Law Libraries and other interested associations to adopt this resolution;

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Michigan Association of Law Libraries transmit a copy of this resolution to the Uniform Law Commission, the American Bar Association, State Bar of Michigan, state officials, and others as appropriate.

Endorsed by vote of the Michigan Association of Law Libraries Executive Board on the 25th day of May, 2016

Leanna Simon, President

Charlotte Walden, Secretary