

Detroit Historic District Commission

Resolution 16-01

February 10, 2016

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 5232 AND SENATE BILL 0720,
LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE MICHIGAN LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS ACT**

By Commissioner Hamilton:

- WHEREAS** historic preservation is declared to be a “public purpose” under Chapter 25, Section 25-2-1 of the Detroit City Code, which further seeks to “safeguard the heritage of the city by preserving areas in the city which reflect elements of its cultural, social, spiritual, economic, political, engineering, or architectural history or its archeology”;
- WHEREAS** Public Act 179 of 1970, the Michigan Local Historic Districts Act (hereinafter, “the Act”), enables local units of government to establish historic districts; and
- WHEREAS** the positive benefits of historic districts on the economic development, quality of life, and general welfare of the people of the City of Detroit are well established; and
- WHEREAS** the City of Detroit contains over 130 historic districts established under a democratic process which is initiated by citizen petition, and includes, in accordance with Chapter 25 of the City Code, substantial outreach to members of the affected communities, statutory public hearings, and final consideration and enactment by the City Council; and
- WHEREAS** the City of Detroit has been designating and administering historic districts for several decades, beginning in 1970, and historic districts previously established retain equal, or have attained greater, significance over the intervening years, and
- WHEREAS** House Bill 5232 of 2016, and the identical legislation Senate Bill 0720 of 2016, introduced to the legislature of the State of Michigan on January 26, 2016, propose to amend the Act to place additional and significant restrictions on the ability of a local unit of government to designate and regulate historic districts; and
- WHEREAS** House Bill 5232 of 2016, and the identical legislation Senate Bill 0720 of 2016, would additionally amend the Act such that existing historic districts will expire unless “renewed” every ten years; and
- WHEREAS** a report from the House Fiscal Agency suggests that the legislation as written would “increase the costs of local units of government attempting to set up new or modify existing historic districts”; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED that the Detroit Historic District Commission hereby urges the House Committee on Local Government, the Senate Committee on Local Government, and the entire state legislature to reject House Bill 5232 of 2016, and Senate Bill 0720 of 2016, as written, **AND BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the House Committee on Local Government, the Senate Committee on Local Government, the Detroit delegation of the Michigan legislature, and the Governor of the State of Michigan.