



SPONSOR: Sen. Bushweller, on behalf of all Senators;  
Reps. Hudson & Gray, on behalf of all Representatives

DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
148th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

COMMENDING THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT.

1 WHEREAS, the National Historic Preservation Act was signed into law on October 15, 1966, to establish a  
2 national policy for the protection and preservation of historic buildings, structures, landscapes, and archaeological sites; and

3 WHEREAS, over the past 50 years, the National Historic Preservation Act has had a profound and positive impact  
4 on communities throughout the State of Delaware and the United States, identifying and protecting historic properties,  
5 revitalizing historic downtowns, and encouraging the preservation of significant elements of our heritage; and

6 WHEREAS, the United States and thousands of public, private, and nonprofit sector partners are commemorating  
7 the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act throughout 2016 under the banner of "Preservation50;" and

8 WHEREAS, the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is an active partner in Preservation50,  
9 joining citizens from across the State in celebrating the first five decades of the National Historic Preservation Act and  
10 working to ensure a strong future for historic preservation efforts; and

11 WHEREAS, the National Historic Preservation Act authorized the creation of State Historic Preservation Offices  
12 (SHPO) to administer a state preservation program, and the Division serves as this State's SHPO, assisting and encouraging  
13 Delawareans to value, preserve, and protect the historic resources that reflect our history and heritage; and

14 WHEREAS, the National Historic Preservation Act directed states to conduct comprehensive statewide surveys  
15 and maintain an inventory of historic properties, to identify properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places,  
16 and to provide historic preservation information and technical assistance to the public; and

17 WHEREAS, the National Register of Historic Places contains more than 90,000 historic properties, with at least  
18 one place listed in almost every county in the United States, and nearly 700 places listed in the State of Delaware; and

19 WHEREAS, the National Historic Preservation Act also provided for the review of federal projects to minimize  
20 their impacts on historic properties, and established the Certified Local Government program to assist preservation efforts  
21 on the local level; and

22 WHEREAS, the National Historic Preservation Act led to the creation of incentives such as the Federal  
23 Preservation Tax Incentives Program, which along with similar incentives at the state level, including Delaware's Historic  
24 Preservation Tax Credit Program, have helped create millions of jobs, attracted billions of dollars in investment, and saved  
25 tens of thousands of historic buildings; and

26 WHEREAS, historic preservation efforts fostered by the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act helps to  
27 sustain heritage tourism, a critical component of the State's economy;

28 NOW, THEREFORE:

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the 148<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the State of  
30 Delaware, with the approval of the Governor, that the General Assembly hereby commemorates the National Historic  
31 Preservation Act on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its passage, affirming that, as stated in the Act, "The historical  
32 and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and. . . the preservation of  
33 this irreplaceable heritage is in the public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational,  
34 economic, and energy benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations of Americans."

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation  
36 to "Delaware Historic Preservation Celebration 2016," the grassroots group formed to commemorate the 50th Anniversary  
37 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and to the United States Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the National  
38 Park Service, the Preservation50 Advisory Committee, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Governor of the  
39 State of Delaware and the Director of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, as an expression of the General  
40 Assembly's appreciation for the significance of the Act and its many benefits to the State and the United States.

#### SYNOPSIS

This Senate Joint Resolution commends the National Historic Preservation Act.

Author: Senator Bushweller