

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 66

BY SENATOR FOIL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commemorate the 175th anniversary of the opening of Louisiana's Old State Capitol as home to the Louisiana Legislature in 1850.

WHEREAS, Louisiana citizens voted in 1845 to establish the capital sixty miles from New Orleans and in 1847 the Baton Rouge City Council and Police Jury transferred approximately five acres of land to the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, architect James Dakin said the capitol should have a "distinctive, classic and commanding character", and his castellated Gothic design was chosen; and

WHEREAS, the building served as the Capitol from 1850 until 1862, when a fire destroyed the interior during the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, the state restored and expanded the Capitol in 1882, adding a fourth floor and the renowned stained glass dome and windows, and was home to innumerable historic events; and

WHEREAS, it served as the statehouse until 1932 when the new Capitol opened; and

WHEREAS, this building housed various state offices until 1991 when it was transferred to the secretary of state's office and, with appropriations from the legislature, was restored to its 1882 grandeur; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Old State Capitol now serves as a museum celebrating the rich political and governmental history of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the museum has twice been accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, a standard held by only six percent of museums nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the museum is home to the Youth Legislature program and is visited by more than 10,000 students annually; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Old State Capitol has offered countless free programs, exhibits, and educational opportunities to the public to advance its mission of educating the public about the democratic process and inspiring engaged citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Old State Capitol is visited by more than 50,000 visitors annually, including tourists from around the world; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Old State Capitol continues to tell the story of Louisiana's history, a state like no other, and enhances the community's cultural, educational, and economic development.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commemorate Louisiana's Old State Capitol on the 175th anniversary of its opening as the capitol and recognizes the critical role the museum plays in educating citizens about our state's political history and the need for an engaged citizenry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby celebrate the enduring legacy of the Old State Capitol, ensuring that this historic site continues to inspire generations to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Louisiana Secretary of State Nancy Landry.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES