

Senators Colbeck, Pappageorge, Nofs, Gregory and Hood offered the following resolution:
Senate Resolution No. 137.

A resolution commemorating the 95th Anniversary of the Michigan State Police.

Whereas, The Michigan Department of State Police was first organized as the Michigan State Troops Permanent Force in 1917 for the purposes of domestic security and moved to permanent status in 1919. During the early years, the State Police protected the homeland during the Great War, provided traffic patrol and general rural law enforcement, and enforced prohibition law. Over time, the department evolved to better serve the citizens of Michigan, eventually being recognized as a world-renowned police agency; and

Whereas, The professionalism and efficiency of the Michigan State Police were noted nationally as the department took the lead in several key initiatives, including the development of one of the world's leading public safety two-way radio communications systems, the Michigan Public Safety Communications System, which is the largest public safety communications system in North America; and

Whereas, Throughout its ninety-five-year history, the Michigan State Police has undergone several transformations to advance its reputation for professionalism, innovation, and excellence. Following the terrorist attacks of September 2001, the director of the Michigan State Police was designated as the State Director of Homeland Security to reflect the state's need to become better prepared for terrorism and weapons of mass destruction incidents. This past year, the department instituted a regional policing plan that increases patrol visibility and makes the department more mobile and flexible in responding to emerging crime trends; and

Whereas, The Michigan Department of State Police is an agency that has continued to excel in the face of change and, when not probing for crime solutions, has taken on new duties in the area of crime prevention. As technological advances progress each year, the department continues to lead in high technology, as evidenced by the creation of the Biometrics and Identification Division to emphasize the science and technologies critical to the future of public safety. Following the lead of the FBI, Michigan is the first state with this type of concentration highlighted in its organizational structure. Michigan also became linked to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), a fully integrated local, state, and national law enforcement system and crime-fighting tool; and

Whereas, The Michigan Department of State Police is dedicated to having a diverse workforce and reaching out to all of Michigan's residents, with special interest in the youth population. In 2003, the agency saw the appointment of its first African-American director; in 2006, the first Hispanic director; and in 2010, the first female director was appointed. The Michigan State Police created the Michigan Youth Leadership Academy to provide teens with the opportunity to learn leadership and decision-making skills, as well as build positive relationships with law enforcement officers. In 2008, the Michigan Youth Leadership Academy received the International Association of Chiefs of Police Civil Rights Award; and

Whereas, Throughout the years, the Michigan State Police has mobilized many times to maintain order, protect property, and provide emergency relief. Michigan citizens have come to rely on these valiant law enforcement officers in times of civil disorder or personal distress, and their trust has been well-founded. We are indeed fortunate and grateful for the contributions of the members of the Michigan Department of State Police to the people of this state; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That an accolade of tribute be hereby accorded to commemorate the 95th Anniversary of the Michigan State Police; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Colonel Kriste Kibbey Etue, director of the Michigan Department of State Police, and to the members of this greatly-respected department as evidence of the high regard and esteem held for them by the Michigan Legislature and the people they serve.