



Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. _____**

Introduced by: Pressel

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION recognizing the 100th
2 anniversary of the LaPorte Little Theatre.

3 *Whereas, The community theater movement began in Europe*
4 *in 1887 and in the United States in 1912, with the Toy Theatre*
5 *in Boston and the Little Theatre of Chicago recognized as the*
6 *first community theaters established in the country;*

7 *Whereas, The community theater movement offered the*
8 *opportunity for American playwrights to develop their skills for*
9 *modern drama with nonprofessional, community based theater*
10 *groups;*

11 *Whereas, By 1917, there were about 50 community theaters*
12 *across the country, which grew to about 100 such groups by*
13 *World War II, with a burst of creative activity after the war. By*
14 *1959, there were approximately 3,500 community theaters*

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1 *across the country;*

2 *Whereas, There are currently 70 community theater*
3 *companies operating across Indiana;*

4 *Whereas, In 1925, a small group of dedicated volunteers led*
5 *by Florence Andrew got together to form LaPorte Little*
6 *Theatre with the company presenting three one act plays for the*
7 *first time on January 13, 1926, at the LaPorte High School*
8 *auditorium;*

9 *Whereas, For many years, the Little Theatre considered the*
10 *LaPorte YMCA its home until 1951, when Karl Demzien and*
11 *Harry Kelling formally incorporated the club. Three years*
12 *later, it purchased the St. John's Lutheran Church building at*
13 *3rd and A Streets in LaPorte, where it continues to produce*
14 *plays to this day;*

15 *Whereas, The LaPorte Little Theatre company of volunteers*
16 *has sustained community theater there for 100 years, through*
17 *the Great Depression and a world war, and has successfully*
18 *brought live theater to this community for a century; and*

19 *Whereas, The Little Theatre of LaPorte, through the art of*
20 *storytelling, has provided the community with remarkable and*
21 *unforgettable musicals, historical dramas, sidesplitting comedy,*
22 *and thoughtful commentary on modern society for 100 years. It*
23 *has done so based on the commitment of hundreds of dedicated*
24 *community volunteers: Therefore,*

25 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the*
26 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

27 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives
28 recognizes the 100th anniversary of the LaPorte Little Theatre.

29 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
30 Representatives shall transmit copies of this resolution to State
31 Representative Jim Pressel for distribution.

