

# Lawmakers revive push of historic tax credit

Some believe it would  
benefit developers  
and homeowners

BY CANDICE WILLIAMS  
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Some Michigan lawmakers want to revive a historic tax credit they believe will boost redevelopment of historic properties throughout the state.

Legislators introduced bills in both chambers earlier this year to replace the Michigan Historic Tax Credit introduced in 1999 but eliminated in 2011 under then-Gov. Rick Snyder because of the state's budget crisis.

"If there is a chance to preserve these wonderful buildings and structures and make them shine again and be points of pride, this credit is one small way that we can encourage that," said state Rep. Ben Frederick, R-Owosso, sponsor of the House bill. "From a cultural standpoint, it's very important. More than just the economic development side."

As the former mayor of Owosso, Frederick said during the Great Recession and early recovery years the small city of 15,000 residents used historic preservation tools, including the state tax credit, to preserve and redevelop buildings in the downtown.

"I come from rural Michigan, but I've seen some wonderful outcomes in places like Detroit and Grand Rapids as well," Frederick said.

This is the second effort to restore the credit in recent years — the first brought forth under Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's administration, following a similar bill fail-

*Please see Tax credit, Page 6A*



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Developer Scott Lowell has completed numerous projects both with and without state historic tax credits.