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4 **A RESOLUTION**

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6 Authorizing and directing the Government Affairs Liaison to request the United States
7 Department of Justice examine the State of Wisconsin's shared revenue system

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9 WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin Shared Revenue Program provides general
10 unrestricted aid to counties and municipalities through various programs and according
11 to the 2017 Legislative Fiscal Bureau Informational Paper 18, Wisconsin's Shared
12 Revenue Program has declined significantly in the past two decades; and

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14 WHEREAS, in 1994-1995, shared revenue was 12.5 percent of the total general
15 fund budget and in 2016-2017, shared revenue made up just five percent, so as state
16 shared funding has remained flat, Milwaukee County is constantly tasked with doing
17 more with less funding; and

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19 WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin's shared revenue system and the funding
20 formulas used to determine annual distribution amounts for municipalities, is not treating
21 citizens of Milwaukee County equally; and

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23 WHEREAS, according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Black
24 residents comprise 6.1 percent of the state's total population, while Milwaukee County is
25 home to 69.4 percent of Wisconsin's Black residents; and

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27 WHEREAS, the City of Milwaukee makes up 63 percent of the County's total
28 population, including 96 percent of the County's Black residents and 81 percent of the
29 County's Latino population; and

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31 WHEREAS, therefore, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors represent the
32 majority of the people of color in the State of Wisconsin; and

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34 WHEREAS, annual shortfalls in shared revenue distribution to Milwaukee County
35 has diminished the county's funding capacity for a variety of critical public services; and,

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37 WHEREAS, consequently, the state shared revenue system and current funding
38 formulas disproportionately impact Milwaukee County's Black and Latino residents'
39 access to adequate public services, including transportation and public safety; and

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41 WHEREAS, the plight of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors warrants a
42 federal Department of Justice examination of Wisconsin's shared revenue system and
43 funding formulas as Milwaukee County's revenue share is not consistent with the cost of
44 inflation; and

46 WHEREAS, the Committee Judiciary, Safety, and General Services, at its
47 meeting of January 20, 2022, recommended adoption of File No. 22-296 (vote 5-0);
48 now, therefore,
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50 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorizes and
51 directs the Government Affairs Liaison to submit a request that the United States
52 Department of Justice review examines the State of Wisconsin's shared revenue
53 system and funding formulas under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the 14th
54 Amendment of the U.S. Constitution; and
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56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Government Affairs Liaison shall request raw
57 data from the State of Wisconsin for all 72 Wisconsin counties regarding the shared
58 revenue payments and disbursements for the past ten years; and
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60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Government Affairs Liaison shall provide the
61 Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors a written copy of the request within 30 days of
62 adopting this resolution.
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66 01/20/22
67 S:\Committees\2022\January\JSGS\Resolutions\22-296 DOH Wisconsin Shared Revenue System.docx