

UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

File No. 17-572

A resolution by Supervisors Lipscomb, Sr., and Taylor (2), continuing the Free Birth Certificate Program to assist individuals in securing photo identification for voting purposes or for those individuals ages 15-21 who need a birth certificate to secure employment, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2011, the Wisconsin State Legislature passed 2011 Wisconsin Act 23, which, in part, changed election laws to require identification (ID) when voting at a polling place or by absentee ballot, now commonly known as the "Voter ID" law; and

WHEREAS, three of the five requirements to obtain a driver license or ID card in the State of Wisconsin (the State) may be met by providing a United States State or local government issued certificate of birth (certified copy only) as one of the acceptable documents of proof; and

WHEREAS, State Statutes require that the Register of Deeds must charge \$20 for the first copy of a certified birth certificate (\$3 for additional copies of the same record); and

WHEREAS, the \$20 in revenue for a birth certificate is apportioned as follows: \$7 to the State Children's Trust Fund, \$8 to State Vital Records revenue, and \$5 remains as general revenue within the Office of the Register of Deeds; and

WHEREAS, in the 2012 Adopted Budget, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) established the Free Birth Certificate Program in the Register of Deeds' department to assist individuals in obtaining birth certificates to secure photo ID for voting purposes; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the County Board expanded the Free Birth Certificate Program to dedicate one-third of the remaining free birth certificates to youth between the ages of 15-21 who needed a birth certificate to secure an employment opportunity, under Adopted File No. 14-280; and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2017, the Register of Deeds notified the County Board Chairperson that as of June 30, 2017, there were 94 free birth certificates remaining and that it is expected that these will be exhausted in the next week or two; and

WHEREAS, the Register of Deeds estimates that an additional 380 birth certificates are needed to continue the program through the end of 2017; and

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45 WHEREAS, removing barriers to obtaining ID for voting purposes, as well as
46 assisting young residents who are seeking employment remains a priority for Milwaukee
47 County; now, therefore,
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49 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorizes and
50 directs the Register of Deeds to continue the Free Birth Certificate Program for both
51 individuals seeking a birth certificate to obtain identification (ID) for voting purposes and
52 for youth ages 15-21 who need a birth certificate to secure employment; and
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54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Register of Deeds shall continue to require
55 that individuals seeking a free birth certificate must complete and sign a form verifying
56 that they meet the criteria for obtaining a free birth certificate; and
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58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Director, Department of Administrative
59 Services, working in conjunction with the Milwaukee County Comptroller, is authorized
60 to process an appropriation transfer in the amount of \$5,700 from the Appropriation for
61 Contingencies, Org. Unit 1945, to the appropriate accounts in the Office of the Register
62 of Deeds to continue the Free Birth Certificate Program; and
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64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that once the limit of 380 birth certificates is
65 reached, no additional free birth certificates shall be provided unless authorized and
66 funded by the County Board.
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