

1 By Supervisors Bielinski, Gómez-Tom, O'Connor,  
2 Martinez, and Shea

File No. 25-779

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## 4 A RESOLUTION

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6 Supporting state legislation to restore local control by repealing and amending  
7 provisions of 2023 Wisconsin Act 12 affecting Milwaukee County and the City of  
8 Milwaukee

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11 WHEREAS, 2023 Wisconsin Act 12 modified the state's approach to shared  
12 revenue for counties and municipalities, repealed Wisconsin's personal property tax and  
13 authorized Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee to impose sales and use taxes  
14 for limited purposes; and

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16 WHEREAS, Act 12 also imposed several statutory requirements and restrictions  
17 that apply uniquely to Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee, thereby diminishing  
18 their ability to exercise local control and self-governance; and

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20 WHEREAS, LRB 25-0395, proposed legislation drafted by the Legislative  
21 Reference Bureau (LRB), has been circulated in the Wisconsin Legislature to repeal or  
22 amend several of these provisions, including but not limited to:

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- 24 Repealing the requirement for Milwaukee County to submit an annual  
25 report to the Joint Committee on Finance containing detailed information  
26 on the county's expenditures in the previous year from the 0.4 percent  
sales tax;
- 27 Eliminating the 15% reduction in shared revenue payments if the County  
28 fails to meet certain statutory requirements;
- 29 Removing restrictions on the percentage of annual budgeted expenditures  
30 that may be allocated to cultural institutions or partnerships with nonprofit  
31 organizations;
- 32 Repealing the requirement that any new program spending or newly  
33 created positions be approved by a two-thirds vote of all County Board  
34 members;
- 35 Eliminating the mandate that Milwaukee County submit list of all unused  
36 buildings it has authority to sell and prepare a plan for their sale to the  
37 Joint Committee on Finance; and

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39 WHEREAS, LRB 25-0395 would also repeal similar restrictions imposed on the  
40 City of Milwaukee's ability to self-govern, including provisions related to the composition

41 and authority of the Fire and Police Commission and the requirement for school  
42 resource officers in public schools; and

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44 WHEREAS, the intent of this legislation is to restore local decision-making  
45 authority, reduce state-imposed mandates that uniquely burden Milwaukee County and  
46 the City of Milwaukee, and promote equitable governance across all Wisconsin  
47 municipalities; and

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49 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors recognizes that  
50 restoring local control is in the best interest of its residents and essential to effective,  
51 responsive, and accountable government; and

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53 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of  
54 December 1, 2025, recommended adoption of File No. 25-779 (vote 4-0); now,  
55 therefore,

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57 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors strongly  
58 supports LRB 25-0395 and urges its passage by the Wisconsin State Legislature; and

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60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Office of Government  
61 Affairs is requested to communicate the contents of this resolution to the Governor,  
62 members of the Wisconsin State Legislature, and the Wisconsin Counties Association  
63 to encourage passage of these important reforms.

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