

3  
4  
5 **A RESOLUTION**  
6

7 In support of State Legislative changes to require that State mandates be fully funded  
8  
9

10 WHEREAS, Wisconsin counties are mandated to administer services on behalf  
11 of the State of Wisconsin; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, some services mandated by the State of Wisconsin include the  
14 operation of correctional facilities, highway maintenance, emergency management, and  
15 court operations; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin often does not fully fund these mandated  
18 services, causing the local taxpayers to incur the remainder of the cost; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff, for example, is the only  
21 county sheriff mandated to provide its own expressway patrol services, receiving only  
22 partial funding from the State of Wisconsin in the form of expressway policing aids,  
23 while the State Highway Patrol services the rest of the Wisconsin expressways; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, when counties are forced to budget for state mandated services, it  
26 redirects funding away from local services; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, File No. 18-427 noted a study from the Wisconsin Policy Forum  
29 which found the obsolete 1929 Safety Building (courthouse) would cost beyond the  
30 County's ability to finance without acquiring unsustainable debt because the Wisconsin  
31 Policy Forum compared the cost of new courthouses in other populous counties finding  
32 new courthouses costing \$100 million to \$500 million (File No. 18-427);  
33

34 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County's established a self-imposed debt limit, to  
35 maintain a fiscally responsible debt level (File No. 03-263), which is only \$46.3 million in  
36 2021 (File No. 20-733), and in addition to State mandates, Milwaukee County has a  
37 backlog of capital projects for quality of life services its residents expect, such as for  
38 parks projects; and  
39

40 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County adopted File No. 05-86 on February 3, 2005,  
41 placing two questions on county-wide referendums relating to state versus county

42 funding of State-mandated services within Combined Court Related Operations and the  
43 Department of Health and Human Services; and

44

45 WHEREAS, more than 85% of voters supported state funding for state mandated  
46 services, rather than the use of county property taxes; and

47

48 WHEREAS, 69 of the 72 counties throughout the state placed similar questions  
49 on their spring 2005 ballots, receiving similar responses; and

50

51 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County supports the State of Wisconsin fully funding all  
52 State mandated services; and

53

54 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of  
55 June 10, 2021, recommended adoption of File No. 21-545 (vote 4-0); now, therefore,

56

57 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County hereby supports the provision that  
58 Wisconsin law be amended to require that State mandates on counties be fully funded;  
59 and

60

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of Government Affairs staff are  
62 authorized and directed to provide this resolution to the Wisconsin Counties Association  
63 for consideration in their 2021 Legislative Platform.

64

65

66

67

06/10/21  
s:\committees\2021\jun\igr\resolutions\21-545 state mandates .docx