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(ITEM) A resolution by Supervisor Haas supporting 2015 Assembly Bill 573 amending existing Wisconsin State Statutes relating to domestic partnerships and the distribution of information to couples issued marriage licenses and declaration of domestic partnerships, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2015, Assembly Bill 573 (the Bill), formerly Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) 3288, was introduced to the Wisconsin State Legislature with the intent to ease the County Clerks’ administrative burdens associated with the declarations of domestic partnerships and the distribution of required literature to couples who are issued marriage licenses and declarations of domestic partnership; and

WHEREAS, under current law, declarations of domestic partnership do not expire even if they are never retrieved by the applicants from the County Clerk (the Clerk) or filed with the Register of Deeds, which means they are retained by the Clerk indefinitely; and

WHEREAS, current law allows the Clerk to charge a discretionary fee of no more than \$10 to couples who desire to be issued a declaration of domestic partnership within less than the standard five day time period that their application was received, which is a lesser amount than marriage license applicants pay for the same discretionary time waiver; and

WHEREAS, under the current law, the Clerk is required to distribute a “pamphlet” on fetal alcohol syndrome and the dangers of drug use during pregnancy to couples who are issued marriage licenses and declarations of domestic partnership, which is neither technologically, environmentally, nor cost effective; and

WHEREAS, to eliminate the burden of keeping outdated and improper records on file permanently, the Bill requires that declarations of domestic partnership that have not been retrieved and/or filed with the Register of Deeds expire 30 days after issuance; and

WHEREAS, the Bill also authorizes the Clerk to increase the current discretionary waiver fee for fast-tracked declarations of domestic partnership from \$10 to \$25, thus making it consistent with the current waiver fees for marriage licenses; and

WHEREAS, the Bill will also change the existing language related to the distribution of literature on fetal alcohol syndrome and drug abuse from “pamphlet” to the more general term of “information” in order to allow the flexibility of using other

46 means of distribution such as electronic communication and website access to
47 modernize current practices and reduce costs; and

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49 WHEREAS, the Wisconsin County Clerks Association supports the changes
50 offered in this Bill; and

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52 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County should strive to streamline its processes to be
53 more efficient and consistent for all employees and residents; and

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55 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
56 January 29, 2016, recommended adoption of this resolution (vote 7-0); now, therefore,

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58 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and the
59 Milwaukee County Clerk support the proposed changes offered in 2015 Assembly Bill
60 573 and urge the Wisconsin State Legislature to pass these changes into law; and

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62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Intergovernmental
63 Relations staff shall forward copies of this resolution to members of the Milwaukee
64 County delegation of the State Legislature and the Governor.

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