

1 Supervisor Jason Haas, Chairperson,
2 From the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, reporting on:

3
4 File No. 14-458
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6 (ITEM 78) A resolution by Supervisor Haas expressing opposition to the proposed
7 \$11.8 million budget reduction in funding to the Wisconsin Circuit Court System over the
8 next two-year period, by recommending adoption of the following:

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10 **A RESOLUTION**
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12 WHEREAS, the 2013-2015 State Biennial Budget requires the Wisconsin Circuit
13 Court System to return a total of \$11.8 million to the State General Fund over the next
14 two-year period, which will result in budget cuts affecting the Milwaukee County Circuit
15 Court System; and

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17 WHEREAS, if the budget cuts are made, Milwaukee County Circuit Court will no
18 longer receive State funding at the previous level of contribution to its budget attributing
19 to budget shortfalls; and

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21 WHEREAS, this loss of funding will need to be recouped somewhere, and in
22 turn, will automatically reduce the services provided to Milwaukee County residents; and

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24 WHEREAS, a reduction in services may mean a possible shrinkage of
25 administrative workers, increased delays for everyday services, decreased ability to
26 attract high quality judicial candidates, delayed court cases, reduced online services,
27 less public safety measures, and fewer programs that reduce recidivism; and

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29 WHEREAS, Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson
30 characterizes the cuts as “anti-revenue measures,” as reported in The Capital Times on
31 May 31, 2013, due to a decrease in clerks available to collect court fees and a decrease
32 in overall collections; and

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34 WHEREAS, the proposed cutback in funding and budget cuts will create an
35 immense financial challenge to Milwaukee County potentially resulting in an increased
36 tax levy while striving to meet the challenge of strict levy caps; now, therefore,

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38 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby
39 states Milwaukee County’s opposition to the return of Wisconsin Judicial Branch
40 Funding to the State General Fund over the next two-year period; and

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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Clerk shall forward a
43 copy of this resolution to Milwaukee County’s State Legislators, the Governor, the
44 Director of State Courts, and all other Wisconsin Counties.
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