

1 By Supervisors Bielinski, Gómez-Tom, O'Connor,
2 Martinez, Shea, Johnson, Jr., Martin, Vincent,
3 and Capriolo

File No. 25-779

5 **AN ENGROSSED RESOLUTION**

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

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13 revenue for counties and municipalities, repealed Wisconsin's personal property tax and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

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

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21 WHEREAS, ~~LRB 25-0395, proposed legislation drafted by the Legislative~~
22 ~~Reference Bureau (LRB), has been circulated 2025 Assembly Bill 684 (AB 684)~~
23 ~~and its companion, Senate Bill 761 (SB 761), have been introduced~~ in the
24 Wisconsin Legislature to repeal or amend several of these provisions, including but not
25 limited to:

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

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42 WHEREAS, LRB-25-0395 AB 684/SB761 would also repeal similar restrictions
43 imposed on the City of Milwaukee's ability to self-govern, including provisions related to
44 the composition and authority of the Fire and Police Commission and the requirement
45 for school resource officers in public schools; and
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47 WHEREAS, the intent of this legislation is to restore local decision-making
48 authority, reduce state-imposed mandates that uniquely burden Milwaukee County and
49 the City of Milwaukee, and promote equitable governance across all Wisconsin
50 municipalities; and
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52 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors recognizes that
53 restoring local control is in the best interest of its residents and essential to effective,
54 responsive, and accountable government; and
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56 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
57 December 1, 2025, recommended adoption of File No. 25-779 (vote 4-0); now,
58 therefore,
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60 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors strongly
61 supports LRB-25-0395 AB 684/SB761 and urges its passage by the Wisconsin State
62 Legislature; and
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64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Office of Government
65 Affairs is requested to communicate the contents of this resolution to the Governor,
66 members of the Wisconsin State Legislature, and the Wisconsin Counties Association
67 to encourage passage of these important reforms.
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