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2 By Supervisors Czarnezki, Clancy, Haas, Ortiz-Velez, Weishan Jr., Shea, Staskunas,
3 Sumner, Rolland, and Taylor
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5
6 **A RESOLUTION**
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8 Calling upon the State of Wisconsin to modify the Wisconsin Statutes to effectively
9 legalize the recreational and medicinal use of marijuana
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12 WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Statutes, among other things, prohibits the
13 production, sale, and transportation of cannabis-based products except for cannabidiol
14 (“CBD”) products containing a minute concentration of the chemical compound which
15 produces psychoactive effects in larger amounts; and
16

17 WHEREAS, Governor Evers in Senate Bill 111 and its companion Assembly Bill
18 68, his proposed 2021-2023 Wisconsin Biennial Budget, has a provision which would
19 regulate marijuana in a manner akin to alcohol, fully legalizing and regulating
20 possession of cannabis up to 0.25 ounces for recreational use for those aged 21 and
21 over; and
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23 WHEREAS, the governor’s proposal would yield an estimated \$165 million in
24 revenue by the second year of the biennium; and
25

26 WHEREAS, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, states
27 solely permitting medically prescribed marijuana include: Arkansas, Connecticut,
28 Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New
29 Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania,
30 Rhode Island, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia; and while South Dakota voters
31 approved recreational marijuana its legality is the subject of ongoing litigation; and
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33 WHEREAS, medicinal marijuana may provide health benefits to users who have
34 medical conditions such as nausea and vomiting from chemotherapy and mitigate
35 symptoms of multiple sclerosis, but whose effectiveness remains the subject of scientific
36 inquiry; and
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38 WHEREAS, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, in
39 addition to medical marijuana, the following 15 states have fully legalized recreational
40 marijuana: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Maryland,

41 Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont,
42 Washington; and

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44 WHEREAS, most of the Union and Wisconsin's neighboring States of Illinois,
45 Michigan, and Minnesota have all softened legal prohibition or marijuana and attitudes
46 in Wisconsin are shifting; and

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48 WHEREAS, a majority of Wisconsin residents favor marijuana legalization as
49 demonstrated by a January 2019 Marquette University Law School Poll in which 59
50 percent of respondents supported legalization; and

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52 WHEREAS, in the 2018 Fall General Election, most Wisconsinites expressed
53 favor toward loosening marijuana restrictions via nonbinding referenda:

54

Full Marijuana Legalization		Legalized Medicinal Marijuana	
Local Government	Favorability	Local Government	Favorability
Dane County	76%	Brown County	75%
Eau Claire County	54%	Clark County	67%
La Crosse County	63%	Forest County	78%
Milwaukee County	70%	Kenosha County	88%
Racine County	59%	Lantern County	77%
Rock County	69%	Lincoln County	81%
		Marathon County	82%
		Marquette County	78%
		Portage County	83%
		Racine County	85%
		Sauk County	80%
		Waukesha City	77%

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56 ; and

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58 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County has previously encouraged the retroactive
59 decriminalization of marijuana (File No. 18-760) and reaffirmed the will of the people of
60 Milwaukee County based on the 2018 advisory referendum on marijuana
61 (File No. 19-409); and
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63 WHEREAS, the Wisconsin chapter of the ACLU found that Black Wisconsinites
64 were 4.2 times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than White
65 Wisconsinites and that Wisconsin ranks 14th in the country for largest racial disparities
66 in marijuana possession arrests; and
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68 WHEREAS, the mission of Milwaukee County is to become the healthiest county
69 in Wisconsin through the achievement of racial equity (File No. 19-397) and in achieving
70 racial equity, disparities in the criminal justice system, including marijuana and
71 paraphernalia possession laws must be eradicated; and
72

73 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
74 April 14, 2021, recommended adoption of File No. 21-306 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,
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76 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County hereby calls upon the State of Wisconsin
77 to effectuate the Wisconsin Governor's proposals relating to marijuana in the 2021-2023
78 Wisconsin Biennial Budget (Senate Bill 111/Assembly Bill 68) or in standalone
79 legislation, similarly regulating marijuana like alcohol and legalizing the recreational use
80 of marijuana in Wisconsin for those aged 21 and older, thereby putting the State in line
81 with 15 other states in the Union, including neighbors Michigan and Illinois; and
82

83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of Government Affairs staff is
84 authorized and requested to communicate the contents of this resolution to the
85 Wisconsin Governor and state policymakers, and support legislation that achieves the
86 criteria outlined in this resolution.
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90 s:\committees\2021\apr\igr\resolutions\21-306 legalize rec.med use of marijuana.docx