

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-140

**RESOLUTION BY THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
AND THE HEALTH & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, EXPRESSING
SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 509**

To the Honorable Members of the Racine County Board of Supervisors:

WHEREAS, Racine County, like other Wisconsin counties, is mandated by the State of Wisconsin to pay the costs of individuals placed in either of the two state Mental Health Institutes (Winnebago and Mendota); and

WHEREAS, the daily cost of a placement for an adult is \$741 per day at Mendota Mental Health Institute and \$727 at Winnebago Mental Health Institute; and

WHEREAS, placement of one adult in either of these institutions for an entire year would exceed \$265,000; and

WHEREAS, for the first 10 months of 2007, Racine County's placements of individuals at Mendota cost \$425,245 and its placements of individuals at Winnebago cost \$358,976, for a total of \$784,221; and

WHEREAS, the immense and variable cost of state Mental Health Institute placements severely reduces the ability of Racine County's Human Services Department to fulfill its responsibility to provide community services to the many county residents in need of such services; and

WHEREAS, in an April 2005 referendum, over 81% of the Racine County voters, and 85% of the Wisconsin voters statewide, voted that these human services costs should be paid for with state tax dollars and *not* property tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill (AB) 509 would help reduce the burden on property taxpayers of Racine County and other counties, by permitting the state to charge counties only 50% of the cost of providing services to their residents at these two facilities; and

WHEREAS, when approving the rate increases at these facilities, the state would have a greater incentive to examine the need for rate increases if it were responsible for paying 50% of the cost of these placements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Racine County Board of Supervisors calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to enact AB 509 or similar legislation that would help relieve Racine County property taxpayers of the burden of paying for services provided at these two institutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Racine County Board of Supervisors that the County Clerk forward copies of this resolution to Governor James Doyle, Racine County's state legislators, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

1 Resolution No. 2007-140

February 12, 2008

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1st Reading _____

2nd Reading _____

BOARD ACTION

Adopted _____

For _____

Against _____

Absent _____

VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

Prepared by:
Corporation Counsel

Respectfully submitted,

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
COMMITTEE**

Russell A. Clark, Chairman

Robert D. Grove, Vice-Chairman

Joseph F. Bellante, Jr.

Gaynell Dyess

Kenneth Lumpkin

Karen A. Nelson

Daniel F. Sharkozy

**HEALTH & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE**

Joseph F. Bellante, Jr., Chairman

Gaynell Dyess, Vice-Chairman

Katherine Buske, Secretary

Robert N. Miller

Donnie Snow

John Wisch