

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-135

RESOLUTION BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING UNEQUIVOCALLY THE AUTHORITY OF COUNTIES TO PLACE JUVENILES IN LOCALLY-BASED PROGRAMS OF ALTERNATIVES TO STATE JUVENILE CORRECTIONS

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

WHEREAS, since 2003, Racine County has operated in its juvenile detention center a program, known as Alternatives to Corrections through Education (ACE), that has shown itself to be an effective option for juveniles who would otherwise be sent to a facility of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections; and

WHEREAS, by permitting juveniles to remain at Racine County's detention center for periods of more than 30 days, the ACE program offers juveniles the benefits of education and counseling while permitting them closer contact with their families and other support systems; and

WHEREAS, juveniles in the ACE program benefit academically, as evidenced by the fact that they earn, on average, twice as many high school credits as those in state corrections facilities; and

WHEREAS, in addition to benefiting the juveniles and their families, the ACE program saves Racine County taxpayers the substantial cost of a placement in one of the state corrections facilities—currently \$275.00 per juvenile per day and likely to be higher after July 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the ACE program has been well received by all the major participants in the county's juvenile justice system, including the Human Services Department, the District Attorney's Office, the Office of the State Public Defender, and the Circuit Court; and

WHEREAS, the ACE program has been approved both by the Racine County Circuit Court and by Wisconsin's 2nd District Court of Appeals, in the 2006 case of State v. Andrew J.K.; and

WHEREAS, despite this history of judicial approval of the ACE program, some other Southeastern Wisconsin counties that would benefit from access to the program for their juveniles desire clarification of the program's statutory authority, particularly with respect to section 938.34(3) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Racine County Board of Supervisors that it calls upon the Wisconsin Legislature and the Governor to enact legislation establishing unequivocally the authority of counties to place juveniles in locally-based programs of alternatives to state juvenile corrections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is directed to provide a copy of this resolution to the Governor of Wisconsin, to Racine County's state legislative delegation, and to the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Respectfully submitted,

1st Reading \_\_\_\_\_

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

2nd Reading \_\_\_\_\_

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Russell A. Clark, Chairman

1 Resolution No. 2010-135  
2 Page Two

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5  
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BOARD ACTION

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
For \_\_\_\_\_  
Against \_\_\_\_\_  
Absent \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
John A. Wisch, Vice-Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gaynell Dyess, Secretary

VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

\_\_\_\_\_  
Katherine Buske

Prepared by:  
Corporation Counsel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark M. Gleason

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth Hall

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth Lumpkin

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donnie Snow

The foregoing legislation adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of  
Racine County, Wisconsin, is hereby:

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Vetoed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_  
William L. McReynolds, County Executive