

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) SS.
COUNTY OF DUNN)

I, Julie A. Wathke, County Clerk in and for the County of Dunn, State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the attached copy of Resolution No. 2018-52 is a true and correct copy of the original ordinance duly adopted by the Dunn County Board of Supervisors at a meeting held on June 20, 2018.

Given under my hand and seal in the City of Menomonie this 21st day of June, 2018.



Julie A. Wathke
Julie A. Wathke
Dunn County Clerk

11.9.1

DUNN COUNTY, WISCONSIN
RESOLUTION NO. 52

**Urging the State of Wisconsin to Increase Compensation for
Defense Counsel Assigned by the State Public Defender**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dunn County Board of Supervisors does hereby urge the State of Wisconsin to provide sufficient resources to the Office of the Public Defender to ensure that the criminal justice system operates effectively and efficiently, including increasing the rate of reimbursement for private attorneys appointed by the Public Defender to a market rate that will ensure the prompt appointment of counsel and that cases are handled in a timely and efficient manner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association, the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, all members of the state legislature, and to each Wisconsin county.

Offered this 20th day of June, 2018, at Menomonie, Wisconsin.

OFFERED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Adopted on: June 20, 2018



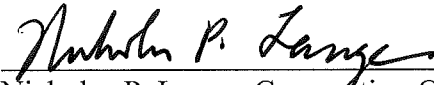
David Bartlett, Chair

ATTEST:



Julie A. Wathke, County Clerk

Approved as to Form and Execution:



Nicholas P. Lange, Corporation Counsel

Budget Impact: Approval of this resolution will have no impact on the 2018 adopted budget.

Background Information: Both the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin provide that persons accused of crime have the right to counsel. In Wisconsin, the Office of the State Public Defender ["SPD"] provides counsel to those persons meeting income eligibility guidelines for services. Where the SPD is unable to provide representation, due to conflict or other reason, the SPD appoints private attorneys to provide representation. Almost 40% of all SPD cases are appointed to private attorneys.

The compensation rate for private bar appointed attorneys in Wisconsin has not been increased since 1995. It is the lowest in the nation, failing to even cover an appointed attorney's overhead costs. As a result, private attorneys are increasingly declining to accept SPD appointments, which is creating an increasing burden on the courts and Wisconsin counties. Costs to counties are increasing as circuit court judges are being forced to appoint counsel at county expense and accused persons are being held in jail longer pending appointment of counsel. These delays also lead to inefficiency for courts and law enforcement agencies, and additional delay for obtaining justice for victims.