

LANGLADE COUNTY



RESOLUTION #18-2018

INTRODUCED BY: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

INTENT: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED PUBLIC DEFENDER ACCESS AND PAY

WHEREAS, criminal cases continue to rise due to a variety of factors including increased drug crimes; and

WHEREAS, both the United States Constitution the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin provide that persons accused have the right to counsel; and

WHEREAS, in Wisconsin the Office of the Public Defender provides counsel to those persons meeting income eligibility guidelines for services; and

WHEREAS, judges are being forced to appoint counsel at county expense for persons for whom the public defender cannot find representation due to a lack of available counsel as a result of the low compensation rate; and

WHEREAS, this results in costs to counties to appoint counsel, increased costs to jail persons held pre-trial pending appointment of counsel, inefficiency for courts and law enforcement and a delay in obtaining justice for victims; and

WHEREAS, the rate of compensation for private bar attorneys has not been increased since 1995 and currently is the lowest hourly rate in the nation; and

WHEREAS, this has created a burden on the courts and Wisconsin counties.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Langlade 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State of Wisconsin increase the rate of reimbursement for assigned counsel attorneys 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 Wisconsin League of Municipalities, the members of the state legislature representing Langlade County.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

David J. Solin, Chairman

Ronald M. Nye

Don Scupien

William Livingston

Ben Pierce

FISCAL NOTE: No fiscal impact at this time.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF LANGLADE COUNTY THIS 19th DAY OF June, 2018.

Judy Nagel, Langlade County Clerk

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