

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2021 - 43

Resolution Requesting Opposition of Assembly Bill 605

TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1 **WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 was signed into law
2 designating \$350 billion dollars in COVID-19 relief funds to state, local, tribal, and territorial
3 governments; and

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5 **WHEREAS**, \$2.5 billion dollars of these funds were allocated to Wisconsin, with \$1.1 billion
6 dollars in direct aid going to counties; and

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8 **WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill 605 was introduced on October 8, 2021, requiring counties to
9 expend the lesser of \$1M or 10% of ARPA funds on (1) workforce housing infrastructure (water,
10 sewer, etc.); (2) establishing a loan program for rehabilitation of older workforce housing; (3)
11 establishing a loan program for building new workforce housing; or (4) redeveloping old
12 shopping malls; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Treasury Guidance allows counties to expend ARPA funds on
15 infrastructure without regard to any relationship between the expenditure and the impacts of the
16 COVID; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, counties, however, are not in the business of providing such infrastructure, there is
19 nothing in Wisconsin Chapters 59 or 66 which would authorize counties in such an undertaking;
20 and

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22 **WHEREAS**, there would need to be a change to state law specifically authorizing counties to
23 invest in infrastructure for that category of expenditure in the bill to proceed; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, in addition, many counties have already formed committees to discuss how to
26 expend their respective ARPA allocations; and

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28 **WHEREAS**, in some cases, counties have approved plans to designate over 95% of their federal
29 funds; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, the requirements in this bill preempt the authority of elected county boards to
32 spend ARPA funds in a manner consistent with federal law and U.S. Treasury Guidance.

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34 **WHEREAS**, this resolution was approved by the Executive Committee on October 29, 2021, on
35 a vote of 9 – 0 with Bartlett, Buchanan, Hanson, Heinecke, McRoberts, Okey, Rindsig,
36 Thompson and Nelson (alternate for Horstman) voting in favor and no members voting against.

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38 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Barron County Board of Supervisors
39 oppose Assembly Bill 605 requiring political subdivisions to use a portion of ARPA funds
40 toward workforce housing projects.


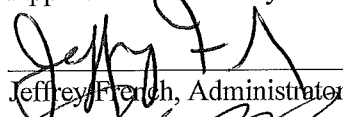
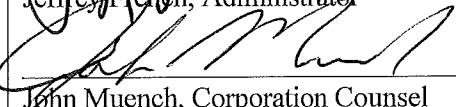

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42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that publication of this resolution may occur through posting
43 in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

OFFERED THIS 1st of November, 2021.

<p>Number of readings required: One (X) Two ()</p> <p>Vote required for passage: Majority (X) 2/3 Entire Board (20) ()</p> <p>Source of funding: Budgeted () General Fund () Grant () Contingency () Other (X) Details: N / A</p> <p>Fiscal impact: - Current year total amount: \$ -0- - Future years total amount: \$ -0- - Effect on tax levy – current year - \$ -0- - Effect on tax levy – future years - \$ -0-</p> <p>Fiscal impact reviewed by County Finance Department</p> <p> Jodi Busch, Finance Director</p> <p>Approved as to form by:</p> <p> Jeffrey French, Administrator</p> <p> John Muench, Corporation Counsel</p>	<p> Louie Okey, Chair Executive Committee</p> <p>(The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.)</p> <p>Board Action: Adopted (X) Failed () Tabled ()</p> <p>Chair Okey read Administrator French's update from the packet regarding the bill. Motion: (Schradle/Moen) to approve. Discussion. Carried.</p>
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