



2023 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 118

February 12, 2024 - Introduced by Representatives VOS, NEUBAUER, AUGUST, BINSFELD, MAGNAFICI, ARMSTRONG, SPIROS, WITKE, NOVAK, BARE, STUBBS, OHNSTAD, C. ANDERSON, STEFFEN, O'CONNOR, DUCHOW, DITTRICH, SUMMERFIELD, MICHALSKI, ZIMMERMAN, MACCO, SHELTON, SINICKI, S. JOHNSON, CONSIDINE, PALMERI, SUBECK, KITCHENS, SCHRAA and JACOBSON, cosponsored by Senators LEMAHIEU, HESSELBEIN, JAMES, BALLWEG, TESTIN, L. JOHNSON, WIRCH and ROYS. Referred to Committee on Rules.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1 **Relating to:** recognizing and commending the National Conference of State
2 Legislatures on its 50th anniversary in 2025.

3 Whereas, the National Conference of State Legislatures was founded in 1975
4 and has evolved during the past half-century to become the premier organization
5 solely dedicated to serving state and territorial legislators and legislative staff; and

6 Whereas, NCSL was created from the merger of three organizations that served
7 or represented state legislatures and that shared the belief that legislative service
8 is one of democracy's worthiest pursuits; and

9 Whereas, NCSL is a bipartisan organization with three objectives: to advance
10 the effectiveness, independence and integrity of state legislatures; to foster
11 interstate communication and cooperation; and to ensure states a strong, cohesive
12 voice in the federal system; and

13 Whereas, our nation's state legislatures are laboratories of democracy and have
14 continuously shown that they are capable of tackling emerging challenges; and

1 Whereas, state legislatures are where people from different backgrounds,
2 representing different communities, can come together and find common ground;
3 and

4 Whereas, NCSL has facilitated the exchange of ideas, provided critical research
5 and information, and encouraged a rigorous review of complex issues confronting our
6 communities, states, and nation; and

7 Whereas, NCSL strives to strengthen the bonds between America's state
8 legislatures and the international community; and

9 Whereas, the Wisconsin Legislature has played an active role in NCSL since the
10 organization's founding; and

11 Whereas, in 1975, Legislative Council Director Bonnie Reese became the first
12 NCSL Staff Chair from Wisconsin and was followed by multiple staff chairs from
13 Wisconsin including State Auditor Dale Cattanach in 1985–86, Senate Chief Clerk
14 Donald Schneider in 1992–93, and Legislative Reference Bureau Chief Steve Miller
15 in 2006–07; and, in 2019, Assembly Speaker Robin Vos was elected as the first NCSL
16 President from Wisconsin; and

17 Whereas, Speaker Vos currently serves as NCSL President Emeritus, and
18 Legislative Council Director Anne Sappenfield serves as NCSL Immediate Past Staff
19 Chair; and

20 Whereas, Assembly Majority Leader Tyler August and the Legislative
21 Reference Bureau's Administrative Services Manager Wendy Jackson currently
22 serve on the NCSL Executive Committee; now, therefore, be it

23 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
24 Wisconsin State Legislature recognize and commend the National Conference of

1 State Legislatures for its superb leadership and its commitment to the legislative
2 institution; and, be it further

3 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk transmit a copy of this joint resolution
4 to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

5 (END)