

2007 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 35

March 19, 2007 – Introduced by Representatives POPE-ROBERTS, SHERMAN, TOLES, BENEDICT, BERCEAU, BLACK, BOYLE, COLON, CULLEN, FIELDS, GARTHWAITE, GRIGSBY, GRONEMUS, HEBL, HILGENBERG, HINTZ, HIXSON, HRAYCHUCK, HUBLER, JORGENSEN, KESSLER, KREUSER, MASON, MOLEPSKE, NELSON, PARISI, POCAN, RICHARDS, SCHNEIDER, SEIDEL, SHERIDAN, SHILLING, SINICKI, SMITH, SOLETSKI, STASKUNAS, STEINBRINK, TRAVIS, TURNER, VAN AKKEREN, VRUWINK, WASSERMAN, A. WILLIAMS, YOUNG and ZEPNICK, cosponsored by Senators BRESKE, CARPENTER, COGGS, ERPENBACH, HANSEN, LASSA, LEHMAN, MILLER, PLALE, RISSER, SULLIVAN, TAYLOR, VINEHOUT, WIRCH and ELLIS. Referred to Committee on Education Reform.

1 **Relating to:** calling for changes to the state’s public school funding formula to be
2 enacted by July 1, 2009.

3 Whereas, article X, section 3, of the Wisconsin Constitution, as interpreted by
4 the Wisconsin Supreme Court in *Vincent v. Voight*, 236 Wis. 2d 588 (2000), requires
5 the state to provide each child with “an equal opportunity for a sound basic
6 education”; and

7 Whereas, some school districts are on the brink of dissolution in part due to
8 declining enrollment and the significant financial restraints imposed by a school aid
9 formula that determines school district revenue limits on a per pupil basis; and

10 Whereas, some of the lowest income areas in the state are burdened with the
11 highest property taxes because the state school aid formula is based upon property
12 values; and

13 Whereas, school districts must seek the approval of the electors at a referendum
14 in order to comply with state and federal education mandates instead of being able

1 to invest local resources in programs that provide students with optional educational
2 opportunities beyond the minimum requirements; now, therefore, be it

3 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** a new school
4 finance system should be in place beginning on July 1, 2009; and, be it further

5 ***Resolved, That*** in order to meet the requirements of the Wisconsin
6 Constitution and state and federal laws, the new school finance system should have
7 the following key components:

8 1. Funding levels based on the actual cost of what is needed to provide children
9 with a sound education and to operate effective schools and classrooms rather than
10 based on arbitrary per pupil spending levels;

11 2. State resources sufficient to satisfy state and federal mandates and to
12 prepare all children, regardless of their circumstances, for citizenship and for
13 post-secondary education, employment, or service to their country;

14 3. Additional resources and flexibility sufficient to meet special circumstances,
15 including student circumstances such as non-English speaking students and
16 students from low-income households, and district circumstances such as large
17 geographic size, low population density, low family income, and significant changes
18 in enrollment;

19 4. A combination of state funds and a reduced level of local property taxes,
20 derived and distributed in a manner that treats all taxpayers equitably regardless
21 of local property wealth and income; and, be it further

22 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
23 resolution to the governor of Wisconsin and the cochairs of the joint committee on
24 finance.

25 (END)