



2009 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 14

October 27, 2009 – Introduced by Representative NASS. Referred to Special Committee on Ethics and Standards of Conduct.

1 **Relating to:** the expulsion of Jeffrey Wood, a representative from the 67th Assembly
2 District, from membership in the Wisconsin state assembly.

3 Whereas, the Wisconsin Constitution, under article IV, section 8, envisions the
4 need of each house of the legislature to address “contempt and disorderly behavior”
5 of its membership by authorizing a process for expelling a member; and

6 Whereas, the Wisconsin state assembly has adopted Assembly Rule 21,
7 providing three options including expulsion for punishing members that have
8 conducted themselves in a manner not conforming to reasonable standards of ethics
9 or moral behavior; and

10 Whereas, Jeffrey Wood currently serves as the representative to the assembly
11 from the 67th Assembly District for the term of the 2009–2010 legislative session;
12 and

13 Whereas, on September 23, 2009, Representative Wood was arrested on the
14 suspicion of driving under the influence in Marathon County, which could result in
15 his fourth offense under Wisconsin law; and

1 Whereas, Representative Wood’s dangerous conduct on September 23, 2009,
2 was reported by a citizen driving in Marathon County who witnessed his erratic
3 driving; and

4 Whereas, the Wisconsin state patrol reports finding a bottle of prescription
5 medication, Lorazepam, with only seven of the 45 pills remaining in a prescription
6 issued on September 22, 2009, and a partially consumed bottle of cough syrup; and

7 Whereas, Representative Wood told a Wisconsin state patrol trooper that he
8 had taken double the prescribed dosage of Lorazepam and two doses of cough syrup
9 on September 23, 2009; and

10 Whereas, on December 12, 2008, Representative Wood was arrested for driving
11 under the influence, possession of 4.9 grams of marijuana, and possession of drug
12 paraphernalia in Columbia County, which could result in his third offense under
13 Wisconsin law; and

14 Whereas, Representative Wood’s dangerous conduct on December 12, 2008,
15 was reported by citizens who witnessed his erratic driving, which included smashing
16 through a highway sign, and he was found by a Wisconsin state patrol trooper
17 urinating alongside of the highway; and

18 Whereas, Representative Wood fully admitted his conduct of December 12,
19 2008, during a radio interview; and

20 Whereas, on February 4, 2009, Representative Wood was ordered to maintain
21 absolute sobriety as a condition of his bond for the December 12, 2008, arrest; and

22 Whereas, Representative Wood had two previous convictions for drunk driving
23 in 1990 and 1991; and

24 Whereas, Representative Wood has been involved in three other instances of
25 disorderly behavior as a result of his use of drugs and alcohol, the most serious

1 occurring in 1989 when he was accused of having sex with an underage minor whom
2 he met at a party, for which he eventually plead guilty to a lesser misdemeanor and
3 served one year on probation; and

4 Whereas, after his arrest on September 23, 2009, Representative Wood issued
5 a statement saying that he has had a lifelong battle with abusing alcohol and drugs;
6 and

7 Whereas, the people of Wisconsin have petitioned their elected state officials to
8 aggressively respond to the ongoing carnage of death and destruction wrought by
9 repeat drunk and drugged drivers; and

10 Whereas, on September 17, 2009, the Wisconsin assembly passed 2009
11 Assembly Bill 283, by a vote of 95 to 0, which makes numerous changes to toughen
12 Wisconsin law on drunk and drugged driving, including making certain fourth
13 offenses a felony; and

14 Whereas, Representative Wood voted "aye" on passage of 2009 Assembly Bill
15 283; and

16 Whereas, repeated disorderly behavior by Representative Wood, both before
17 and during public service, has brought disrepute on the Wisconsin state assembly
18 and severely damaged the institution's integrity with the public; and

19 Whereas, continued service by Representative Wood is no longer compatible
20 with his oath of office and the reasonable social norms of expected behavior for a
21 member of the assembly, as he continues to deal with his personal conduct issues that
22 frequently lead to dangerous behaviors that jeopardize his life and the life of innocent
23 citizens; now, therefore, be it

