



## 2009 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 65

March 31, 2010 – Introduced by Senators COGGS, JAUCH, WIRCH, MILLER and TAYLOR, cosponsored by Representatives YOUNG, BLACK, HEBL, HIXSON, GARTHWAITE, BERCEAU, TURNER, ZEPNICK, BENEDICT, BERNARD SCHABER, PASCH and A. WILLIAMS. Referred to Committee on Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term Care, and Job Creation.

1     **Relating to:** lead poisoning hazards, lead abatement, and requesting a study.

2             Whereas, Wisconsin carries a heavy burden from all the lead paint used in years  
3 past, consistently ranking among the top ten states for the number of children found  
4 to have suffered lead poisoning; and

5             Whereas, the rate of lead poisoning among children in Wisconsin is persistently  
6 higher than the national average; and

7             Whereas, more than 46,000 children have been reported to the Wisconsin  
8 Department of Health Services as lead poisoned since 1996 and every Wisconsin  
9 county has reported children who are lead poisoned; and

10            Whereas, lead poisoning is a housing-based disease, and 33 percent of  
11 dwellings in the midwest region of the United States have lead paint hazards; and

12            Whereas, lead-based paint is the primary source of lead in children's  
13 environments; and

14            Whereas, lead exposure harms a child's ability to learn, to succeed in life, and  
15 to stay healthy; and

1           Whereas, lead poisoning is associated with a greater likelihood of behavior  
2 problems like aggression and hyperactivity and a lead-poisoned child is more likely  
3 to experience problems in school due to learning difficulties, poor reading skills, and  
4 shortened attention span; and

5           Whereas, there is no safe level of lead in the human body; and

6           Whereas, children who are poisoned by lead are more likely to have problems  
7 as teens with their upright balance that may result in falls or discourage their  
8 participation in sports; and

9           Whereas, lead poisoning continues to affect learning ability as a child ages and  
10 is a powerful predictor of school disciplinary problems; and

11           Whereas, for adults who were poisoned as children, lead poisoning continues  
12 to predict negative outcomes, such as commission of violent crimes; and

13           Whereas, lead in the body can negatively and profoundly affect health  
14 throughout the lifespan; and

15           Whereas, childhood lead poisoning increases the risk of death from stroke and  
16 heart attack as adults and may lead to adult kidney disease, diabetes, depression,  
17 panic attacks, and cognitive deficits such as memory loss and Alzheimer's disease;  
18 and

19           Whereas, lead can cause reproductive problems in both men and women; and

20           Whereas, childhood lead poisoning is costly to our community and society as a  
21 whole; and

22           Whereas, lead poisoning is preventable; now, therefore, be it

23           ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the Wisconsin  
24 legislature urges the Wisconsin Implementation and Oversight Committee for  
25 Eliminating Lead Poisoning under the Department of Health Services to prepare a

1 document helping to give the legislature guidance on legislation for the 2011-2012  
2 legislative session, proposing: 1) ways that Wisconsin can evaluate the costs borne  
3 by Wisconsin's educational and criminal justice systems attributable to childhood  
4 lead poisoning so the legislature may evaluate the value of additional investments  
5 in efforts to prevent lead poisoning; 2) alternative methods to prevent lead poisoning,  
6 including strategies to accelerate Wisconsin's progress at evaluating and abating  
7 lead paint hazards in housing; and 3) various sources of funds to achieve those goals;  
8 and, be it further

9 **Resolved, That** the Wisconsin legislature encourages those departments in  
10 state government that have access to data or resources that could assist in preparing  
11 this document to collaborate with the "Wisconsin Implementation and Oversight  
12 Committee for Eliminating Lead Poisoning in Wisconsin" where possible; and, be it  
13 further

14 **Resolved, That** this report be submitted by January 1, 2011, to the standing  
15 committees of the legislature dealing with the public health and welfare of Wisconsin  
16 citizens.

17 (END)