



2017 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 77

October 18, 2017 - Introduced by Senators JOHNSON, DARLING, VINEHOUT and RINGHAND, cosponsored by Representatives STEFFEN, HEBL, VRUWINK, ROHRKASTE, MILROY, KOLSTE, SHANKLAND, TITTL, ANDERSON, BERCEAU, HORLACHER, MASON, SARGENT, C. TAYLOR, CROWLEY, GENRICH, HESSELBEIN, SPREITZER, SINICKI, RIPP, E. BROOKS and SUBECK. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming October 15th, 2017, as White Cane Safety Day.

2 Whereas, the white cane, which every blind citizen in our state has the right to
3 carry, is a demonstration of the ability to live and fulfill an independent and fully
4 capable life, both privately and in the workforce; and

5 Whereas, the white cane allows every blind person to move freely and safely
6 about in society, leading to increased contributions and participation; and

7 Whereas, on October 6, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed October
8 15 of each year as White Cane Safety Day, after commending the blind people of our
9 society for their spirit of independence and determination to be self-reliant; and

10 Whereas, this proclamation marked the culmination of a long journey for the
11 recognition of the independence and self-sufficiency of blind people in America; and

12 Whereas, the law requires motorists to exercise extreme caution when
13 approaching a blind person carrying a white cane, something that every citizen
14 should be aware of; and

1 Whereas, Wisconsin law calls upon both public and private employers to be
2 aware of not only the full array of skills that blind people possess, but also their
3 independence and productive capabilities that greatly assist the competitive
4 workforce; and

5 Whereas, the State of Wisconsin encourages and looks forward to the continued
6 growth of employment and acceptance of blind people in the competitive labor
7 market; and

8 Whereas, to honor the many achievements of blind and visually impaired
9 Wisconsinites, and to recognize the white cane's significance in advancing
10 independence; now, therefore, be it

11 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the legislature
12 proclaims October 15, 2017, as White Cane Safety Day.

13

(END)