



1997 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 115

March 2, 1998 - Introduced by Representatives OURADA, BLACK, OLSEN, HUTCHISON, BOCK, COGGS, KEDZIE, UNDERHEIM, PORTER, BALDWIN, KAUFERT, HUBER, VRAKAS, HANSON, MUSSER, NOTESTEIN, OWENS, HASENOHRL, URBAN, L. YOUNG, GOETSCH, RYBA, DOBYNS, SYKORA, LORGE, OTTE, PLOUFF, OTT, PLALE, HARSDFORF, SPILLNER and LADWIG, cosponsored by Senators BURKE, COWLES, GEORGE, ROESSLER, C. POTTER, BRESKE, MOEN, ROSENZWEIG and PLACHE. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming April 22 "Environmental Education Works for Wisconsin!"

2 Day.

3 Whereas, the citizens of Wisconsin fully cherish and utilize the abundant
4 natural resources of this state for recreation, agriculture, business and industry; and

5 Whereas, policy and natural resource leaders in Wisconsin have long
6 recognized the need for education about our state's natural resources, education
7 about the issues related to those resources and education to teach the skills to
8 investigate and equitably resolve natural resource conflicts and challenges; and

9 Whereas, education about the environment has been supported through public
10 policy by the legislature since 1935 when a law was enacted requiring that
11 conservation be taught in every public school and be included in teacher training
12 programs; and

13 Whereas, the 1935 conservation education legislation was enhanced 50 years
14 later by promulgation of an administrative rule updating teacher certification

1 requirements in environmental education and requiring an environmental
2 education plan by every school district; and

3 Whereas, these policies were followed in 1990 by the passage of the Wisconsin
4 Environmental Education Act, which created a state center for environmental
5 education, a grants program and the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board;
6 and

7 Whereas, Wisconsin has received national recognition and awards for its policy
8 and program leadership in the field of environmental education; and

9 Whereas, the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education’s
10 “Environmental Education: Are We Walking the Talk?” study concluded that
11 environmental education policies have not been fully implemented; yet the same
12 report found that there was broad public support for environmental education as a
13 core educational experience for K-12 students; and

14 Whereas, the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board held an
15 environmental education summit in 1995 that resulted in the following priorities:
16 increased communication regarding Wisconsin’s environmental education program;
17 increased environmental education leadership in the state; and improvement of
18 environmental education programming in the state; and

19 Whereas, communities throughout Wisconsin are utilizing environmental
20 education as a vehicle for ensuring excellence in education, making education
21 relevant to learners, developing a workforce capable of meeting the challenges of the
22 future, improving the quality of life for communities and increasing parent and
23 community participation in the development of young people; and

24 Whereas, the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WAE) and
25 the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) have launched the “EE

1 Works for Wisconsin!" campaign to recognize and celebrate the history and many
2 achievements of environmental education in Wisconsin; now, therefore, be it

3 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the Wisconsin
4 legislature declares April 22, 1998, (Earth Day 1998) "EE Works for Wisconsin!" Day;
5 and, be it further

6 ***Resolved, That*** school teachers and informal educators, business and industry
7 representatives, members of community organizations, education and natural
8 resource agency administrators and other Wisconsin citizens are encouraged to
9 identify and highlight exemplary examples of environmental education programs in
10 their communities and in the state during "EE Works for Wisconsin!" Earth Day
11 1998; and, be it further

12 ***Resolved, That*** teachers and informal educators, business and industry
13 representatives, members of community organizations and other Wisconsin citizens
14 are urged to help implement and improve Wisconsin's environmental education
15 programs and policies so that they may fully reach their potential in developing an
16 environmentally knowledgeable Wisconsin citizenry.

17 (END)