

## 2001 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 27

February 8, 2001 – Introduced by Representatives YOUNG, COGGS, TURNER, WALKER, HUEBSCH, WADE, MONTGOMERY, OTT, BOYLE, SCHNEIDER, POWERS, MUSSER, PLOUFF, MEYERHOFER, GRONEMUS, MILLER, URBAN, KESTELL, LADWIG, WASSERMAN, OWENS, BLACK, FREESE, JESKEWITZ, ALBERS, NASS, LIPPERT, HAHN, RYBA, GUNDERSON, VRAKAS, BALOW and JOHNSRUD, cosponsored by Senators MOORE, RISSER, PANZER, FARROW, ZIEN, BURKE, S. FITZGERALD, ROSENZWEIG, A. LASEE, MOEN, BRESKE and HARSDORF. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1     **Relating to:** congratulating Marlene A. Cummings for her long-term services and  
2           wishing her well in her future endeavors.

3           Whereas, on February 25, 2001, Marlene A. Cummings will retire as secretary  
4 of the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing; and

5           Whereas, Marlene was the original appointee of Governor Tommy G. Thompson  
6 to be the secretary of the Department of Regulation and Licensing in 1987, and she  
7 has served as secretary for 14 years; and

8           Whereas, Marlene has become a veteran state official whose agency provides  
9 professional credentials to some 250,000 service providers -- from health care to real  
10 estate, and counseling to barbering and cosmetology, among other professions -- and  
11 whose agency reviews and disciplines these professionals when determined  
12 necessary by the department and its 24 regulatory boards; and

13           Whereas, under Marlene, the duties of the Department of Regulation and  
14 Licensing have been expanded by the Wisconsin legislature to license and regulate

1 dozens of professions, including home inspection and marriage and family therapy;  
2 and

3 Whereas, the position of secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Regulation  
4 and Licensing was the 2nd cabinet-level appointment for Marlene; and

5 Whereas, Marlene previously served as adviser on women and family  
6 initiatives under Governor Lee Sherman Dreyfus for 4 years prior to moving into the  
7 private sector; and

8 Whereas, previous to her public service to the people of the state of Wisconsin,  
9 Ms. Cummings served as the human relations coordinator for the Madison  
10 Metropolitan School District and coordinated the development of a human relations  
11 education curriculum that was published and distributed throughout the United  
12 States, including her publications *Individual Differences* and *No Two Alike*; and

13 Whereas, Marlene was also a columnist for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, a host  
14 of a children's television program for WISC-TV, and an owner and manager of Norell  
15 Temporary Services and also Cummings and Associates Education Consultants; and

16 Whereas, upon her retirement announcement, Governor Tommy G. Thompson  
17 praised Marlene for developing deadlines to handle public complaints, developing a  
18 procedure to treat professionals with drug or alcohol addictions, and developing  
19 programs to require ongoing education by professionals, and he stated "Marlene  
20 truly is a great friend, a great leader and source of stability within the administration  
21 .... We will miss her sound judgment and her innovative ideas. She has worked well  
22 with the licensing boards and her resignation will be a great loss for hundreds of  
23 board members and the entire state of Wisconsin."; and

24 Whereas, Marlene has received various honors, including "Madison Jaycettes  
25 Woman of the Year"; and

1           Whereas, Ms. Cummings has enjoyed her life outside the department,  
2 including performing as an accomplished “blues singer” at venues in France,  
3 Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Brazil, and Australia and many places in the  
4 United States, including Madison; now, therefore, be it

5           ***Resolved by the senate assembly assembly concurring, That*** the members  
6 of the Wisconsin legislature applaud the career of Marlene A. Cummings, thank her  
7 for her contributions, and wish her a happy retirement; and, be it further

8           ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint  
9 resolution to Marlene A. Cummings.

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**(END)**