

2001 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 34

October 2, 2001 – Introduced by Representatives JENSEN and BLACK.

1 **Relating to:** commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Wisconsin Legislative
2 Reference Bureau.

3 Whereas, the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau celebrates its 100th
4 anniversary this year; and

5 Whereas, the Legislative Reference Bureau was the first agency in the United
6 States established to provide nonpartisan, professional staff services to the
7 legislature and today drafts thousands of bills, amendments, and resolutions each
8 year, in addition to providing legal advice and assistance to the legislature; and

9 Whereas, the Legislative Reference Bureau served as a model for state
10 legislatures seeking a more professional and systematic process and inspired the
11 creation of the Congressional Research Service; and

12 Whereas, the implementation of the Wisconsin Idea, which encouraged
13 University of Wisconsin faculty to join legislators and professional staff to help the
14 legislature work more effectively and efficiently, was aided immeasurably by the

1 research services provided by the Legislative Reference Bureau and by the vision of
2 the Bureau's first chief, Charles McCarthy; and

3 Whereas, the Legislative Reference Bureau collects and catalogs state
4 documents, books, pamphlets, and news articles relating to public policy and
5 lawmaking and provides a subject index to all bills introduced by the Wisconsin
6 legislature; and

7 Whereas, the Legislative Reference Bureau performs valuable research for the
8 legislature on questions of public policy and serves as a vital source of information
9 about state government for all Wisconsin residents; and

10 Whereas, since 1929, the Legislative Reference Bureau has published the
11 *Wisconsin Blue Book*, a comprehensive guide to state government, containing
12 information about elected officials and state agencies and general statistical
13 information about Wisconsin; and

14 Whereas, each of the five people chosen to serve as chief of the Legislative
15 Reference Bureau since Charles McCarthy has continued to uphold the high
16 standards for professional, nonpartisan legislative staff services established by its
17 first chief; and

18 Whereas, the Legislative Reference Bureau, in concert with its sister legislative
19 service agencies, is an integral part of the Wisconsin legislature and Wisconsin state
20 government; now, therefore, be it

21 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the legislature
22 commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Wisconsin Legislative Reference
23 Bureau and expresses its appreciation for the dedicated nonpartisan, professional

1 services that the staff of the Legislative Reference Bureau has provided for the last
2 century.

3 (END)