LRB-5343/1 LTK:skw

## 2019 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 119

January 16, 2020 - Introduced by Representatives Edming and B. Meyers, cosponsored by Senators Petrowski and Bewley. Referred to Committee on Rules.

**Relating to:** proclaiming February 16 – 22, 2020, as American Birkebeiner Week in 1 2 Wisconsin. 3 Whereas, the American Birkebeiner, held in Hayward, WI each year, is North America's largest cross-country ski race and contributes to the estimated \$30 million 4 5 in silent sports revenue generated in Sawyer and Bayfield Counties each year; and 6 Whereas, over 13,500 cross-country skiers and an estimated 35,000 spectators 7 gather in Hayward each February to celebrate and participate in the American 8 Birkebeiner Ski Foundation's annual Birkie Week of Nordic skiing festivities, which 9 includes events for all ages and abilities; and 10 Whereas, over 250,000 skiers have participated in American Birkebeiner Ski 11 Foundation races since 1973; and 12 Whereas, the American Birkebeiner is a uniquely American tradition and the 13 sole cross-country ski race representing the North American continent within the 14 Worldloppet Ski Federation; and

1	Whereas, the over 100 kilometer American Birkebeiner recreational trail was
2	ranked the number one cross-country ski destination in the United States in 2016.
3	This recreational corridor is utilized by an estimated 100,000 visitors annually and
4	draws tourists to the northwestern Wisconsin region; and
5	Whereas, Hayward and the surrounding rural communities host participants
6	from 49 states and 24 countries (in 2019) to join in Birkie Week festivities; and
7	Whereas, 2,500 volunteers from all points north, south, east, and west,
8	volunteer at Birkie Week events in support of the 13,500 competitors; and
9	Whereas, the American Birkebeiner is celebrating its 46th year in 2020; and
10	Whereas, the mission of the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation, a 501C3
11	non-profit organization, is to conduct the finest international cross-country ski
12	competitions, to serve as good stewards of the American Birkebeiner Trail system,
13	and to support a healthy and active lifestyle among people of all ages and abilities;
14	now, therefore, be it
15	Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the legislature, in
16	recognition of the importance of the American Birkebeiner and its contribution to the
17	State of Wisconsin and its citizens, does hereby proclaim February $16-22$ to be
18	American Birkebeiner Week in Wisconsin; and, be it further
19	Resolved, That the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this resolution
20	to the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation.
21	(END)