

State of Misconsin 2021 - 2022 LEGISLATURE

2021 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 65

October 18, 2021 – Introduced by Senators Marklein, Bernier, Carpenter, Nass and Ringhand, cosponsored by Representatives Novak, Tranel, Allen, Callahan, Dittrich, Drake, Edming, Horlacher, Kerkman, Kitchens, Knodl, Loudenbeck, Magnafici, Milroy, Moses, Mursau, Penterman, Riemer, Shankland, Shelton, Sinicki, Spiros, Spreitzer, Subeck, Thiesfeldt, Tusler, Vruwink and Wittke. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1	Relating to: commemorating the 185th anniversary of the convening of Wisconsin's
2	first territorial legislature.
3	Whereas, an act of Congress established the Wisconsin Territory in 1836,
4	setting in motion the formation of a territorial government; and
5	Whereas, President Andrew Jackson appointed Henry Dodge as the territorial
6	governor, responsible for conducting a census, calling elections, designating a
7	temporary seat of government, and convening the legislature; and
8	Whereas, Governor Dodge honored the town of Belmont with selection as the
9	first territorial capitol; and
10	Whereas, legislators traveled from across the Wisconsin Territory to convene
11	the first territorial legislature, comprised of a council and a house of representatives,
12	on October 25, 1836; and
13	Whereas, buildings commissioned by John Atchison housed meetings of the
14	first territorial legislature and lodged councilors and representatives; and

Whereas, the first territorial legislature passed 42 acts, addressing topics of
 great importance; and

- 2 -

Whereas, these acts set up a judicial system, designated a permanent capitol in Madison, established a university, called for the completion of various infrastructure projects, and prescribed the internal workings of the newly formed government; and

Whereas, this first meeting of the territorial legislature marked the beginning
of a rich tradition still in practice today wherein lawmakers gather to debate and
deliberate on the pressing topics of the day; now, therefore, be it

10 **Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That** the members of the 11 Wisconsin Legislature do hereby recognize October 25, 2021, as the 185th 12 anniversary of the meeting of Wisconsin's first territorial legislature, commend the 13 work of early lawmakers instrumental to the deliberation and approval of the first 14 territorial acts, and reaffirm Wisconsin's continued commitment to the legislative 15 process in order to promote and provide for the public good; and, be it further

Resolved, That the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
 resolution to the clerk of the Town of Belmont, the clerk of Lafayette County, and the
 Wisconsin Historical Society.

19

(END)