

State of Misconsin 2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

2023 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 104

January 19, 2024 – Introduced by Representatives Edming, Green and Armstrong, cosponsored by Senators Quinn and Tomczyk. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1	Relating to: celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the American Birkebeiner and
2	proclaiming February 19 to 25, 2024, as American Birkebeiner Week in
3	Wisconsin.
4	Whereas, the American Birkebeiner has grown from humble beginnings in
5	1973 to the largest cross-country ski race in North America and is currently the only
6	race representing the United States of America within the Worldloppet Ski
7	Federation; and
8	Whereas, the American Birkebeiner is a uniquely American tradition that
9	brings in over 15,000 cross-country skiers and an estimated 35,000 spectators each
10	February to race between Cable and Hayward, Wisconsin, as well as celebrate and
11	participate in the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation's annual Birkie Week of
12	cross-country skiing festivities, which includes events for all ages and abilities; and
13	Whereas, over 360,000 skiers have participated in American Birkebeiner Ski
14	Foundation races since 1973; and

2023 – 2024 Legislature

1	Whereas, Hayward and the surrounding communities will host participants
2	from at least 25 countries, 49 states, and the District of Columbia (in 2024) to join
3	in Birkie Week festivities; and
4	Whereas, 2,500 volunteers from all points north, south, east, and west
5	volunteer at Birkie Week events in support of the 15,000 competitors; and
6	Whereas, the American Birkebeiner is celebrating its 50th year in 2024; and
7	Whereas, the over 100 kilometer American Birkebeiner recreational trail was
8	ranked the number one cross-country ski destination in the United States in 2016.
9	This recreational corridor is utilized by an estimated 100,000 visitors annually and
10	draws tourists to the northwestern Wisconsin region; and
11	Whereas, Birkie Week events and year-round users of the Birkie trail
12	contribute significantly to the economy in Sawyer and Bayfield Counties; and
13	Whereas, the mission of the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation, a 501 (c) (3)
14	nonprofit organization, is to conduct the finest international cross-country ski
15	competitions, to serve as good stewards of the American Birkebeiner trail system,
16	and to support a healthy and active lifestyle among people of all ages and abilities;
17	now, therefore, be it
18	Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the legislature, in
19	recognition of the importance of the American Birkebeiner and its contribution to the
20	state of Wisconsin and its citizens, celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the American
21	Birkebeiner and does hereby proclaim February 19 to 25, 2024, to be American

- 2 -

22

Resolved, That the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this resolution
to the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation.

Birkebeiner Week in Wisconsin; and, be it further

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