

State of Wisconsin



2021 Senate Joint Resolution 65

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to: commemorating the 185th anniversary of the convening of Wisconsin's first territorial legislature.

Whereas, an act of Congress established the Wisconsin Territory in 1836, setting in motion the formation of a territorial government; and

Whereas, President Andrew Jackson appointed Henry Dodge as the territorial governor, responsible for conducting a census, calling elections, designating a temporary seat of government, and convening the legislature; and

Whereas, Governor Dodge honored the town of Belmont with selection as the first territorial capitol; and

Whereas, legislators traveled from across the Wisconsin Territory to convene the first territorial legislature, comprised of a council and a house of representatives, on October 25, 1836; and

Whereas, buildings commissioned by John Atchison housed meetings of the first territorial legislature and lodged councilors and representatives; and

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

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

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the members of the Wisconsin Legislature do hereby recognize October 25, 2021, as the 185th anniversary of the meeting of Wisconsin's first territorial legislature, commend the work of early lawmakers instrumental to the deliberation and approval of the first territorial acts, and reaffirm Wisconsin's continued commitment to the legislative 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.

Representative Robin J. Vos
Speaker of the Assembly

Senator Chris Kapenga
President of the Senate

Date

Michael J. Queensland
Senate Chief Clerk