



State of Wisconsin
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5508/1
CMH:cjs

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.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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

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
22 Birkebeiner Week in Wisconsin; and, be it further

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

25 (END)