

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY HUSER, GIPP, THOMAS, FALCK, SUNDERBRUCH,  
TEIG, and JAGER

A Concurrent Resolution requesting establishment of  
a legislative interim study committee to review the  
authority and responsibilities of townships as a unit  
of local government in this state.

WHEREAS, townships have existed in this state for  
more than a century as an important unit of local  
government; and

WHEREAS, townships hold important responsibilities  
for financing and providing services to the citizens  
of the township; and

WHEREAS, townships exercise powers of condemnation,  
property taxation, appointment of ex officio police  
officers, purchase and sale of land, and receipt and  
expenditure of public and private moneys; and

WHEREAS, townships may establish fire protection  
services, emergency warning systems, and emergency  
medical services, and may levy property taxes and  
issue anticipatory bonds to support these public  
functions; and

WHEREAS, the authority and responsibilities of  
townships relative to the authority and  
responsibilities of cities, benefited districts, and  
counties are not well understood by the public and  
policymakers; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE  
SENATE CONCURRING, That the Legislative Council is  
requested to establish an interim study committee to

*Her 18*

1 perform a review of the authority and responsibilities  
2 of townships. If established, the study committee  
3 should be directed to make a comprehensive study of  
4 all aspects of townships, including but not limited to  
5 budgeting practices, election requirements, taxation  
6 practices, and the provision of fire protection  
7 services and emergency medical services. The study  
8 committee should also be directed to make findings and  
9 recommendations for legislative changes, if determined  
10 by the study committee to be necessary, to improve the  
11 functioning of townships as viable units of local  
12 government or to integrate township responsibilities  
13 with those responsibilities of other units of local  
14 government.

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