

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-59

**RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE BOARD OF THE VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA
REQUESTING LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO CHANGE THE ALLOCATION OF RESERVE
“CLASS B” LIQUOR LICENSES WITHIN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN**

The Village Board for the Village of Caledonia resolves as follows:

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has a law in effect limiting the number of Reserve “Class B” Liquor Licenses that may be issued by local municipalities (*See* §125.51(4), Wis. Stat.); and

WHEREAS, under state law, a municipality may arrange for a transfer of a Reserve “Class B” Liquor License from a municipality that is contiguous with, or is located within two miles of, the requesting municipality, with a statutorily required issuance fee, typically the payment of at least \$10,000.00, to the transferring municipality for the transferred license (*See* §§125.51(3)(e)(4) and (4)(e), Wis. Stat.); and

WHEREAS, municipalities in the State of Wisconsin desire to increase their tax base through development and growth of businesses and provisions that hamper these efforts are detrimental to not only the municipalities but also the residents and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, it is our belief that the two provisions above are unnecessarily limiting and prevent new businesses from establishing and growing in our municipality; and

WHEREAS, municipalities of Racine, Walworth and Kenosha Counties have been asked to support a change in these laws;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Caledonia respectfully requests the State of Wisconsin to allow municipalities to request a transfer of a Reserve “Class B” liquor license throughout an entire county rather than being limited to a 2-mile contiguous radius.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Caledonia Village Board, that the Village President is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin and the Racine County’s State legislative delegation.

13 Adopted by the Village Board of the Village of Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin, this day of June 2023.

VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA

By: Thomas R. Weatherston
Thomas Weatherston
Village President

Attest: Joslyn Hoeffert
Joslyn Hoeffert
Village Clerk



I write to you on behalf of the Village of Caledonia to express our strong support for amending the allocation of Reserve "Class B" liquor licenses within the state of Wisconsin. We kindly request your consideration and assistance in addressing this matter.

As the Village President of Caledonia, I fully endorse the proposal to allow municipalities to request transfers of Reserve "Class B" liquor licenses throughout an entire county rather than being limited to a two-mile contiguous radius. The limitations imposed by §125.51(4) of the Wisconsin Statutes hinder the growth and development of businesses in our municipality and throughout the state.

We echo the concerns raised by Mayor Jeannie Hefty of the City of Burlington, who eloquently highlighted the challenges municipalities face when multiple qualified applicants vying for a limited number of liquor licenses. This scenario often forces municipalities to make difficult choices between deserving businesses, impeding economic progress and growth.

By expanding the transfer radius to encompass an entire county, municipalities would gain the necessary flexibility to support the establishment and growth of businesses more effectively. This amendment would foster economic development, create opportunities for entrepreneurs, and contribute to vibrant communities throughout Wisconsin.

We respectfully request your assistance in advocating for this change. We urge you to work with the appropriate legislative bodies to amend the current laws governing Reserve "Class B" liquor licenses. This adjustment would unlock the potential for increased economic growth, job creation, and overall prosperity in our State and County.

Attached to this letter is a copy of the resolution passed by the Village Board of the Village of Caledonia, which provides more detailed insights into our position. We kindly ask that you review this resolution and consider our request for legislative action to address the current limitations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we genuinely appreciate your dedication to promoting the welfare and prosperity of Wisconsin. We can overcome these challenges and create an environment that fosters sustainable growth and success.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas R. Weatherston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'T'.

Thomas Weatherston
Village President
Village of Caledonia
Racine County, Wisconsin

Attachments: Copy of Resolution [Resolution No. 2023-59]