



## **AGENDA**

### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

March 12, 2024 5:00 PM

**Room 1284-County Board Room**

**Government Center - 1101 Carmichael Road, Hudson, Wisconsin**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

#### **ROLL CALL**

#### **BUSINESS**

1. Resolution Supporting Wisconsin Senate Bill 916 Related to Refugee Resettlement
2. Resolution Supporting the "CARE Act" Proposed by Congressman Tom Tiffany Related to Amending Section 412 of the Immigration and Nationality Act
3. Resolution Requesting an Immediate Pause on Refugee Resettlement in St. Croix County

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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*Reasonable efforts will be made to provide special accommodations for access to public meetings. To request a special accommodation, please contact the County Clerk's Office at (715) 386-4600 at least two business days prior to the time of the meeting. Please see [www.sccwi.gov](http://www.sccwi.gov) for available digital options to access the meeting.*



**Resolution No.**  
**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING WISCONSIN SENATE BILL 916 RELATED**  
**TO REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT**

**COVER MEMO**

**TO:** County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Ken Witt, County Administrator

**DATE:** March 12, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM:** Resolution Supporting Wisconsin Senate Bill 916 Related to Refugee Resettlement

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

On March 5, 2024, the County Board voted to have a resolution drafted supporting the adoption of Senate Bill 916.



**Resolution No.**  
**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING WISCONSIN SENATE BILL 916 RELATED**  
**TO REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT**

1           **WHEREAS**, the Refugee Act of 1980, located at Title VI, Chapter 2 of the Immigration  
 2 and Nationality Act, created The Federal Refugee Resettlement Program to provide for the  
 3 effective resettlement of refugees; and  
 4

5           **WHEREAS**, the Refugee Act of 1980 states in 8 U.S.C. § 1522(a)(1)(B)(iii) that, “local  
 6 voluntary agency activities should be conducted in close cooperation and advance consultation  
 7 with State and local governments;” and  
 8

9           **WHEREAS**, the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors are concerned with the lack of  
 10 transparency and communication by voluntary agencies, specifically World Relief of Chippewa  
 11 Valley, regarding anticipated resettlement of refugees within a 100-mile radius of the City of  
 12 Eau Claire; and  
 13

14           **WHEREAS**, in January 2024, Wisconsin Senate Bill 916 (SB916) and Assembly Bill  
 15 1004 (AB1004) were introduced requiring local governments to designate an individual for  
 16 consultation, and for other purposes relating to proper notice for local government entities  
 17 related to the federal program regarding refugee resettlement and assistance; and  
 18

19           **WHEREAS**, if passed, a statute would be created requiring an employee or officer of a  
 20 local government unit, including a city, village, town, county, or school district, to report to the  
 21 chief elected official (i.e. County Board Chair) if the employee or officer is contacted by the  
 22 federal government or a private nonprofit voluntary agency regarding proposed placements of  
 23 refugees in the local governmental unit; and  
 24

25           **WHEREAS**, the proposed statute further requires that the chief elected official notify  
 26 each local governmental unit within a 100-mile radius about the potential refugee resettlement  
 27 and the local governing body must schedule an open meeting to discuss the potential refugee  
 28 resettlement and designate a representative from the local governmental unit to consult with the  
 29 federal government and private nonprofit voluntary agency; and  
 30

31           **WHEREAS**, SB916 was passed by both the Senate and the Assembly in mid-February  
 32 2024, and is pending before Governor Tony Evers.  
 33

34           **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the St. Croix County Board of  
 35 Supervisors hereby supports the adoption of SB916 to ensure that counties are provided with  
 36 notice and consultation related to refugee resettlement.  
 37

38           **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors directs  
 39 the County Clerk to send copies of this resolution to Governor Tony Evers and the Wisconsin  
 40 Counties Association.

**Legal – Fiscal – Administrative Approvals:**

Legal Note:

Fiscal Impact:                      Advisory resolution has no fiscal impact.

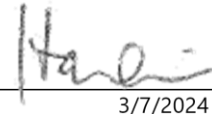


Heather M. Amos, Corporation Counsel

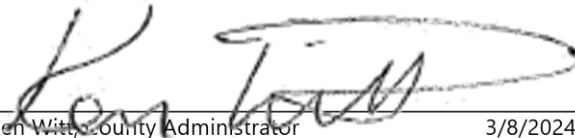
3/8/2024



Dustin Hawkins, Finance Director



3/7/2024



Ken Witt, County Administrator

3/8/2024

Vote Confirmation.

**St. Croix County Board of Supervisors Action:**

Roll Call - Vote Requirement – Majority of Supervisors Present

Christine Hines, County Clerk



## 2023 SENATE BILL 916

January 11, 2024 - Introduced by Senators TOMCZYK, JAMES, BALLWEG, CABRAL-GUEVARA, JACQUE, NASS, QUINN and WANGGAARD, cosponsored by Representatives HURD, SUMMERFIELD, PRONSCHINSKE, PETRYK, ARMSTRONG, GUSTAFSON, BEHNKE, BODDEN, BRANDTJEN, DITTRICH, EDMING, GOEBEN, GREEN, MAGNAFICI, MAXEY, MURPHY, MURSAU, PENTERMAN, ROZAR and SCHMIDT. Referred to Committee on Transportation and Local Government.

1     **AN ACT** *to create* 66.0443 of the statutes; **relating to:** requiring local  
2           governments to designate an individual for consultation required under a  
3           federal program regarding refugee resettlement and assistance.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill provides a procedure for providing notice of, and designating local consultation regarding, certain refugee resettlement and assistance. Under the bill, if an employee or officer of a city, village, town, county, or school district (local governmental unit) contacts or is contacted by the federal government or a private nonprofit voluntary agency regarding certain proposed placements of refugees in the local governmental unit, the employee or officer must report the contact to the chief elected official (placement report). The chief elected official must then notify each local governmental unit located, entirely or partially, within a 100-mile radius. The governing body of each local governmental unit receiving one of these notifications must meet and 1) include on the meeting agenda an informational item that the notification has been received and allow for a public comment on the item, and 2) designate a representative for the local governmental unit for purposes of consultation with the federal government or a private nonprofit voluntary agency.

Under the bill, all designees in the county with regard to a particular placement report must meet as a county refugee placement committee to discuss the proposed placement of refugees. The committee must then hold a public hearing regarding the proposed placement of refugees. After the hearing, the committee must make a recommendation on whether the local governmental unit should pass a resolution

Attachment: 2023 Senate Bill 916 (10778 : Resolution Supporting Wisconsin Senate Bill 916 Related to Refugee Resettlement)

**SENATE BILL 916**

regarding its position on the proposed refugee placement and provide each designee with guidance on all considerations that should be included as part of a consultation with the federal government or a private nonprofit voluntary agency regarding the proposed placement of refugees. Designees must also report to the governing body of the local governmental unit for which the designee is a representative any plan relating to the proposed refugee placement established after consultation with the federal government or a private nonprofit voluntary agency.

For further information see the local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

1           **SECTION 1.** 66.0443 of the statutes is created to read:

2           **66.0443 Local consultation for refugee resettlement and assistance.**

3           **(1)** In this section:

4           (a) “Chief elected official” means the mayor of a city or, if the city is organized  
5           under subch. I of ch. 64, the president of the council of that city, the village president  
6           of a village, the town board chairperson of a town, the chairperson of the county board  
7           of supervisors, or the chairperson of a school board.

8           (b) “Committee” means a county refugee resettlement committee organized  
9           under sub. (5).

10          (c) “Designee” means a person designated under sub. (4) (b) by a local  
11          governmental unit.

12          (d) “Local governmental unit” means a city, village, town, or county, or school  
13          district.

14          **(2)** If any employee or officer of a local governmental unit contacts or is  
15          contacted by the federal government or a private nonprofit voluntary agency acting  
16          under 8 USC 1522 regarding the proposed placement of refugees in the local  
17          governmental unit under 8 USC 1522, within 7 business days of the contact, the

Attachment: 2023 Senate Bill 916 (10778 : Resolution Supporting Wisconsin Senate Bill 916 Related to Refugee Resettlement)

**SENATE BILL 916**

1 employee or officer shall submit a written report on the contact, including copies of  
2 any documentation received, to the chief elected official and clerk of the local  
3 governmental unit.

4 (3) Within 10 business days of receiving a report under sub. (2), a chief elected  
5 official shall provide a written notification of the contact to the chief elected official  
6 and clerk of each local governmental unit located, entirely or partially, within a  
7 100-mile radius of the office of the clerk for the local governmental unit providing  
8 the notice under this subsection.

9 (4) Within 30 days of receiving notification under sub. (3), the governing body  
10 of each local governmental unit receiving notification under sub. (3) shall meet and  
11 do all of the following:

12 (a) Include on the meeting agenda an informational item that the notification  
13 under sub. (3) has been received and allow for a public comment on the item.

14 (b) Designate, by a majority vote of a quorum of the governing body, an  
15 employee or officer of the local governmental unit to serve as the representative for  
16 the local governmental unit for purposes of consultation with the federal government  
17 or a private nonprofit voluntary agency regarding refugee resettlement and  
18 assistance as set forth under 8 USC 1522. The clerk of the local governmental unit  
19 shall notify the county board chairperson and clerk for the county in which the local  
20 governmental unit is located of the designation under this paragraph.

21 (5) Not sooner than 30 days, nor later than 45 days, after receiving a  
22 notification under sub. (3), upon the call of the county board chairperson, each  
23 designee in the county with regard to a report under sub. (2) shall meet to discuss  
24 the proposed placement of refugees regarding which the report was made. The  
25 county board chairperson shall ensure that representatives of the federal

**SENATE BILL 916**

1 government or private nonprofit voluntary agency involved in the contact under sub.  
2 (2) are invited to the meeting. Upon commencement of the meeting under this  
3 subsection, the designees constitute a county refugee resettlement committee. The  
4 county is responsible for all costs of the committee.

5 (6) Within 30 days of the initial committee meeting under sub. (5), the  
6 committee shall hold a public hearing regarding the proposed placement of refugees  
7 regarding which the report under sub. (2) was made. Notice of the hearing shall be  
8 given by publishing in a newspaper or newspapers having general circulation within  
9 the territory within a 100-mile radius of the office of the clerk for the local  
10 governmental unit to whom the report under sub. (2) was made as a class 1 notice,  
11 under ch. 985, a summary of the proposal and notice of the place where the proposal,  
12 the written report submitted to the chief elected official under sub. (2), and any  
13 documentation submitted with the report are available for public inspection, and  
14 notice of the time and place for holding the public hearing thereon in the local  
15 governmental unit at least 15 days prior to the time of the public hearing. Posting  
16 may not be substituted for publication under this subsection. Notice of the hearing  
17 shall also be given at least 10 days before the meeting by communication from the  
18 committee to those news media who have filed a written request for notice of all  
19 meetings of any local governmental unit that received a notification under sub. (3),  
20 and to the official newspaper designated under ss. 985.04, 985.05, and 985.06 of any  
21 local governmental unit that received a notification under sub. (3) or, if none exists,  
22 to a news medium likely to give notice in the area.

23 (7) Once a public hearing has been held under sub. (6), the committee shall  
24 make a recommendation to the governing body of the local governmental unit on

Attachment: 2023 Senate Bill 916 (10778 : Resolution Supporting Wisconsin Senate Bill 916 Related to Refugee Resettlement)

**SENATE BILL 916**

1 whether the body should pass a resolution regarding its position on the proposed  
2 refugee placement.

3 (8) The committee shall provide each designee with guidance on all  
4 considerations that should be included as part of the consultation under 8 USC 1522,  
5 including consideration of potential impacts on the local agencies and the timeline  
6 related to any placement of refugees with regard to which the report under sub. (2)  
7 was made. Designees shall communicate all considerations provided by the  
8 committee to the relevant parties involved in consultation under 8 USC 1522.

9 (9) Once a plan relating to the proposed refugee placement under this section  
10 has been established after consultation under 8 USC 1522, each designee shall  
11 submit within 7 business days a written report on the plan to the local governmental  
12 unit for which the designee is a representative.

13 (10) A taxpayer of a local governmental unit may commence an action for  
14 injunctive relief, a writ of mandamus or prohibition, or other such legal or equitable  
15 relief as may be appropriate to compel compliance with the law if an elected official  
16 designated under this section or the governing body of the local governmental unit  
17 has failed or is failing to comply with this section.

18 (END)

Attachment: 2023 Senate Bill 916 (10778 : Resolution Supporting Wisconsin Senate Bill 916 Related to Refugee Resettlement)



**Resolution No.**  
**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE "CARE ACT" PROPOSED BY**  
**CONGRESSMAN TOM TIFFANY RELATED TO AMENDING SECTION**  
**412 OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT**

**COVER MEMO**

**TO:** County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Ken Witt, County Administrator

**DATE:** March 12, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM:** Resolution Supporting the "CARE Act" Proposed by Congressman Tom Tiffany Related to Amending Section 412 of the Immigration and Nationality Act

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

On March 5, 2024, the County Board voted to have a resolution drafted supporting the adoption of the CARE Act.



**Resolution No.**  
**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE "CARE ACT" PROPOSED BY**  
**CONGRESSMAN TOM TIFFANY RELATED TO AMENDING SECTION**  
**412 OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT**

1           **WHEREAS**, Congressman Tom Tiffany represents the 7<sup>th</sup> District of Wisconsin in the  
 2 House of Representatives, which includes St. Croix County; and  
 3

4           **WHEREAS**, the Refugee Act of 1980, located at Title VI, Chapter 2 of the Immigration  
 5 and Nationality Act, created The Federal Refugee Resettlement Program to provide for the  
 6 effective resettlement of refugees; and  
 7

8           **WHEREAS**, recently Congressman Tiffany proposed the Community Assent for  
 9 Refugee Entry Act, or the "CARE Act," requesting an amendment to Section 412 of the  
 10 Immigration and Nationality Act located at 8 U.S.C. § 1522, which reads as follows:  
 11

12           “(g) Limitation on Resettlement - Notwithstanding any other provision of this section,  
 13 for a fiscal year, the resettlement of any refugee may not be provided for -  
 14

15           (1) in any State where the Governor of that State, or the State Legislature, has taken any  
 16 action formally disapproving of resettlement in that State: or  
 17

18           (2) in any locality where the chief executive of that locality’s government, or the local  
 19 legislature, has taken any action formally disapproving of resettlement in that locality.”  
 20

21           ; and  
 22

23           **WHEREAS**, the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors recommends adoption of the  
 24 CARE Act to allow local government units to provide input on resettlement of refugees within  
 25 the county.  
 26

27           **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the St. Croix County Board of  
 28 Supervisors hereby supports the adoption of the CARE Act to provide a mechanism for state  
 29 and local government units to formally review the resettlement of refugees within their  
 30 jurisdiction.  
 31

32           **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors directs  
 33 the County Clerk to send copies of this resolution to Congressman Tom Tiffany and the  
 34 Wisconsin Counties Association.

**Legal – Fiscal – Administrative Approvals:**

Legal Note:

Fiscal Impact:                      Advisory resolution has no fiscal impact.

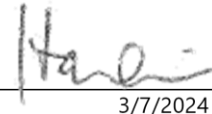


Heather M. Amos, Corporation Counsel

3/8/2024



Dustin Hawkins, Finance Director



3/7/2024



Ken Witt, County Administrator

3/8/2024

Vote Confirmation.

**St. Croix County Board of Supervisors Action:**

Roll Call - Vote Requirement – Majority of Supervisors Present

Christine Hines, County Clerk

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To limit resettlement in certain States or localities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. TIFFANY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To limit resettlement in certain States or localities.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Community Assent for  
5 Refugee Entry Act” or the “CARE Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT.**

7 Section 412 of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
8 (8 U.S.C. 1522) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
9 lowing:

Attachment: 2024 CARE Act (10779 : Resolution Supporting the "CARE Act" Proposed by Congressman Tom Tiffany)

1       “(g) LIMITATION ON RESETTLEMENT.—Notwith-  
2 standing any other provision of this section, for a fiscal  
3 year, the resettlement of any refugee may not be provided  
4 for—

5               “(1) in any State where the Governor of that  
6 State, or the State legislature, has taken any action  
7 formally disapproving of resettlement in that State;  
8 or

9               “(2) in any locality where the chief executive of  
10 that locality’s government, or the local legislature,  
11 has taken any action formally disapproving of reset-  
12 tlement in that locality.”.



**Resolution No.**  
**RESOLUTION REQUESTING AN IMMEDIATE PAUSE ON REFUGEE**  
**RESETTLEMENT IN ST. CROIX COUNTY**

**COVER MEMO**

**TO:** County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Ken Witt, County Administrator

**DATE:** March 12, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM:** Resolution Requesting an Immediate Pause on Refugee Resettlement in St. Croix County

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

On March 5, 2024, the County Board voted to have a resolution drafted to address an immediate pause on refugee resettlement in St. Croix County



**Resolution No.**  
**RESOLUTION REQUESTING AN IMMEDIATE PAUSE ON REFUGEE  
 RESETTLEMENT IN ST. CROIX COUNTY**

1           **WHEREAS**, The Refugee Act of 1980, located at Title VI, Chapter 2 of the  
 2 Immigration and Nationality Act, created The Federal Refugee Resettlement Program to  
 3 provide for the effective resettlement of refugees; and  
 4

5           **WHEREAS**, within the United States, the U.S. Department of State operates the U.S.  
 6 Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) and the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), which  
 7 assists refugees with access to various services in coordination with the states; and  
 8

9           **WHEREAS**, within Wisconsin, the Bureau of Refugee Programs (BRP) receives grants  
 10 from the ORR and funds local statewide organizations to provide critical services to refugees;  
 11 and  
 12

13           **WHEREAS**, voluntary agencies, referred to as VOLAGs, in Wisconsin that contract  
 14 with state and/or federal governments to assist refugees with resettlement include World Relief  
 15 Wisconsin with locations in the Fox Valley and the Chippewa Valley; and  
 16

17           **WHEREAS**, the nearest voluntary agency to St. Croix County, Wisconsin is World  
 18 Relief Chippewa Valley with an office located at 221 W. Madison Street in Eau Claire,  
 19 Wisconsin; and  
 20

21           **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of State requires that refugees be resettled within 100  
 22 miles of a voluntary agency's physical office location; and  
 23

24           **WHEREAS**, St. Croix County is located within 100 miles of World Relief Chippewa  
 25 Valley; and  
 26

27           **WHEREAS**, approximately 75 refugees are planned to be resettled in the Chippewa  
 28 Valley by September 30, 2024; and  
 29

30           **WHEREAS**, the resettlement of refugees in the United States requires significant  
 31 financial resources to ensure their successful integration into society, including but not limited  
 32 to, housing, healthcare, education, employment assistance, language training, and social services;  
 33 and  
 34

35           **WHEREAS**, the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors are concerned about refugees  
 36 being resettled within St. Croix County without the necessary long-term funding sources to  
 37 sustain their integration without reliance upon the taxpayers of the county; and  
 38

39           **WHEREAS**, St. Croix County is already stretched to its levy capacity without the ability  
 40 to adequately fund state-mandated programs; and  
 41

42           **WHEREAS**, the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors are disappointed by the lack of  
 43 transparency and communication by World Relief Chippewa Valley regarding the anticipated  
 44 resettlement of refugees within 100 miles of St. Croix County; and

45  
46       **WHEREAS**, as refugees may be resettled within 100 miles of World Relief Chippewa  
47 Valley, collaboration and consultation with local government units within 100 miles of that  
48 location is imperative in order to inform the public of the resettlement of refugees, and for  
49 necessary studies to be conducted to ascertain the impact on the local communities.

50  
51       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the St. Croix County Board of  
52 Supervisors that there be an immediate pause on the placement of any refugees within St. Croix  
53 County.

54  
55       **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** by the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors that,  
56 prior to the resettlement of refugees within St. Croix County, that all federal, state, local, or  
57 voluntary agencies involved with resettlement engage in collaboration and consultation with  
58 local government units within the county to inform the public of the resettlement, that adequate  
59 time be allocated to conduct studies necessary to ascertain the impact on local communities, and  
60 that the county be provided with a detailed description of the short and long-term funding  
61 resources available to the refugees.

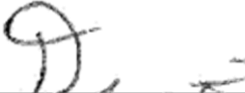
62  
63       **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors directs  
64 the County Clerk to send copies of this resolution to World Relief Chippewa Valley, the Bureau  
65 of Refugee Programs, U.S. Department of State, and the Office of Refugee Resettlement.


**Legal – Fiscal – Administrative Approvals:**

Legal Note:

Fiscal Impact:                      Advisory resolution has no fiscal impact.

  
Heather M. Amos, Corporation Counsel                      3/8/2024

  
Dustin Hawkins, Finance Director

  
3/7/2024

  
Ken Witt, County Administrator                      3/8/2024

Vote Confirmation.

**St. Croix County Board of Supervisors Action:**

Roll Call - Vote Requirement – Majority of Supervisors Present

Christine Hines, County Clerk

