

..Number

121604

..Version

PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE A

..Reference

121009

..Sponsor

ALD. WITKOWSKI

..Title

Substitute resolution amending the 2013-2014 state legislative package relating to a state property tax exemption for a nonprofit youth baseball association.

..Analysis

This resolution amends the "2013-2014 State Legislative Package Proposals" as attached to Common Council File Number 121009 by adding an item seeking amendment of ch. 70, Wis. Stats., to create a property tax exemption for a nonprofit youth baseball association, effectively providing an exemption for the Wilson Park Youth Baseball program in the City of Milwaukee.

..Body

Whereas, 2011 Assembly Bill 680 (AB 680) was introduced in the Wisconsin legislature on March 8, 2012, and was not acted upon prior to the end of the legislative session on March 23, 2012; and

Whereas, AB 680, introduced with bipartisan support, including 8 sponsors, would have created an exemption from state and local taxes on property, including land, buildings and personal property, owned or leased by Wilson Park Youth Baseball, a nonprofit youth baseball association within the City; and

Whereas, Wilson Park Youth Baseball provides a venue for more than 600 City children ages 5 through 16 to participate in baseball and related activities with their families and neighbors; and

Whereas, Wilson Park Youth Baseball has operated for more than 50 years and was given a federal tax-exempt status as a section 501(c)3 charitable organization in 1989; and

Whereas, Wilson Park Youth Baseball has consistently provided opportunities for children wishing to participate with "no try-outs, no drafts and no benchwarmers"; and

Whereas, Wilson Park Youth Baseball, the only nonprofit youth baseball association of its kind in possession of playing fields located within the City, now pays property taxes annually on properties improved with 3 baseball diamonds and a concession structure with restrooms; and

Whereas, Section 70.11, Wis. Stats., provides property tax exemptions for more than 45 categories of organizations and associations that provide beneficial educational, recreational, religious and benevolent services and programs including, by way of

example, educational institutions, nonprofit hospitals, agricultural fairs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Young Men's Christian Association, bible camps, humane societies, nonprofit youth hockey associations and snowmobile clubs, but not nonprofit youth baseball associations; and

Whereas, The current program and the potential expansion of Wilson Park Youth Baseball are hindered by the diversion of limited tax-exempt income and contributions to payment of property tax obligations; and

Whereas, The Common Council finds that the activities of Wilson Park Youth Baseball contributes significantly to the quality of life and to the health and safety of children and neighborhoods; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that the City supports the creation of a property tax exemption for a nonprofit youth baseball association, and directs the Intergovernmental Relations Division-Department of Administration to seek introduction and passage of legislation substantially similar to 2011 Assembly Bill 680; and, be it

Further Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee that File Number 121009 is amended by adding the following item in the document attached to the file and identified as "2013-2014 State Legislative Package Proposals":

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| Common Council | Finance and Administration | Amend Wis. Stats. Chapter 70 to create a property tax exemption for a nonprofit youth baseball association |
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Requestor
Drafter
LRB145696-3
3/15/2013