



Legislation Text

File #: 47530, **Version:** 1

Fiscal Note

No appropriation required.

Title

Establishing a workgroup to make recommendations to the Mayor and the Common Council regarding the development of a City of Madison Municipal Identification Card program.

Body

WHEREAS, obtaining a government identification card has proven difficult, if not impossible, for many Madison residents, including immigrants, youth, homeless individuals, transgender individuals, people with disabilities, and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, Madison residents who do not have government-issued identification face restricted access to financial institutions, healthcare, jobs, housing, law enforcement, and home and workplace protections; and

WHEREAS, a lack of government identification deters members of our community from reporting crimes to local law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Madison residents who do not have government identification may be afraid to report labor and housing law violations; and

WHEREAS, it is difficult to open a bank account without government identification, and individuals without identification are more likely to carry large amounts of cash and therefore be a target for robbery or other violent crime; and

WHEREAS, Madison residents who are transgender and gender non-conforming may face particular challenges in obtaining identification that reflects their gender identity; and

WHEREAS, a municipal identification card would make a meaningful difference in our community by providing an official form of personal identification for many residents who currently lack identification; and

WHEREAS, a municipal identification card would be a powerful symbol of inclusion and welcome; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Oakland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New Haven, New York City, Richmond, Newark, and Hartford have implemented community identification programs and have reported increases in reporting of crimes and civic engagement in those cities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Milwaukee successfully implemented a municipal identification program earlier this year with a budget of \$150,000; and

WHEREAS, although a municipal identification card may not be used to apply for state assistance or presented as valid identification for voting purposes, the City of Madison may accept a municipal identification card for other interactions with customers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Madison is committed to the values of diversity, inclusiveness, and equality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor shall appoint a staff workgroup to gather community

input on the need for a City of Madison Municipal Identification Card; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the workgroup shall develop a recommended framework for a City of Madison Municipal Identification Card to include, but not be limited to, application requirements, privacy measures, identification creation and distribution practices, cost, and an implementation timeline; and

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED, that the workgroup shall consider best practices from other communities when drafting its recommendations; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the workgroup shall present its recommendations to the Mayor and Common Council within three months.