

**Sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2017**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4003
(Senator Wardner)**

A concurrent resolution requesting the Legislative Management to study the current juvenile justice process, levels of collaboration among various service systems, implementation of dispositional alternatives, and methods for improving outcomes for juveniles involved in the process.

WHEREAS, within the judicial branch, the juvenile court system is responsible for the adjudication and disposition of allegations that a juvenile is deprived, unruly, or has committed a delinquent act; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the juvenile court process, other entities are involved in addressing juvenile justice issues, including the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation through the Division of Juvenile Services, the Department of Human Services, the Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigent Defense, regional human service centers, K-12 public schools, and a wide variety of treatment providers; and

WHEREAS, an effective resolution of juvenile justice issues must address recidivism, improve service access, efficiently use system resources, and collaborate with other service systems to identify the spectrum of needs of a juvenile involved in the system; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota is in the midst of a Justice Reinvestment Initiative in the adult justice system which began two years ago, has resulted in the passage of landmark legislation, and will continue into the next biennium; and

WHEREAS, the current juvenile justice process has not been reviewed in almost thirty years; and

WHEREAS, the current process poses concerns for ensuring the most effective use of probation services, access to adequate support services, the potential for unwarranted institutional placements, and the need to distinguish between deprived juveniles and unruly and delinquent juveniles with respect to dispositions and service access.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the Legislative Management consider studying the current juvenile justice process, the appropriate age when a juvenile is considered capable of committing a criminal offense, levels of collaboration among various service systems, implementation of dispositional alternatives, and methods for improving outcomes for juveniles involved in the process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Management report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2017,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State