

Fifty-fifth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 4001

Introduced by

Legislative Council

(Budget Committee on Government Services)

(Senator St. Aubyn)
(Representatives Sveen, Wentz)

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to monitor mental health and foster
2 care services.

3 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Human Services has developed a plan for an integrated
4 multidisciplinary continuum of services for mentally ill individuals pursuant to North Dakota
5 Century Code Section 50-06-06.5, which was a recommendation resulting from a 1985-86
6 study by the Legislative Council; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Legislative Council has monitored services to the mentally ill and
8 chemically dependent since the 1987-88 interim, including the role and function of the State
9 Hospital and expanded community services for mentally ill and chemically dependent
10 individuals; and

11 **WHEREAS**, each regional human service center operates a psychosocial rehabilitation
12 center through contracts with private, nonprofit organizations for providing companionship and
13 recreational activities for individuals with serious mental illness; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the 1991 Legislative Assembly began providing funding for clubhouse
15 projects for providing prevocational skills training for individuals with serious mental illness and
16 currently two psychosocial rehabilitation centers operate clubhouse projects; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the 1995 Legislative Assembly authorized the Mental Health Division to
18 implement and supervise a unified mental health delivery system to assure that mental health
19 services provided by the human service centers, the State Hospital, and private contractors are
20 in accordance with the state plan; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the cost of services for children placed out of state in the foster care
22 program increased from \$603,000 in fiscal year 1994 to \$1.1 million in fiscal year 1995; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the effect of ongoing federal and state welfare reform activity is unknown at
24 this time; and

1 **WHEREAS**, residential child care facilities and residential treatment centers have
2 expressed concern that reimbursement rate adjustments are not made on a timely basis by the
3 Department of Human Services and that the rates do not provide for the actual cost of services;

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

6 That the Legislative Council monitor mental health and foster care services, including
7 changes in the role of the State Hospital, psychosocial rehabilitation centers, and clubhouse
8 projects; the effect of welfare reform on the delivery of mental health and foster care services;
9 methods used to place children in the custody of the division of juvenile services; methods used
10 to place children in residential child care facilities and residential treatment centers and
11 methods of setting and levels of reimbursements for residential child care facilities and
12 residential treatment centers; and items of legislative intent regarding mental health and foster
13 care services; and

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council report its findings and
15 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
16 the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly.