

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with House Amendments**

Fifty-fifth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**ENGROSSED SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 4012**

Introduced by

Senator W. Stenehjem

Representative Kretschmar

1 A concurrent resolution for the amendment of sections 1 and 5 of article V of the Constitution of
2 North Dakota, relating to the election of executive branch officers.

3 **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

4 This amendment provides that one-half of the elected state officials will be chosen by voters in
5 each election year. To start this arrangement, the governor and lieutenant governor, treasurer,
6 secretary of state, and agriculture commissioner will be elected for two-year terms in 2000 and
7 thereafter will be elected to four-year terms.

8 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE HOUSE OF**

9 **REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:**

10 That the following proposed amendments to sections 1 and 5 of article V of the
11 Constitution of North Dakota are agreed to and must be submitted to the qualified electors of
12 North Dakota at the primary election to be held in 1998, in accordance with section 16 of
13 article IV of the Constitution of North Dakota.

14 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 1 of article V of the Constitution of North Dakota
15 is amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **Section 1.** The executive power is vested in the governor, who shall reside in the state
17 capital and shall hold the office for the term of four years beginning in the year ~~2000~~ 2002, and
18 until a successor is elected and qualified.

19 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 5 of article V of the Constitution of North Dakota
20 is amended and reenacted as follows:

21 **Section 5.** The qualified electors shall choose the elected state officials at a time
22 designated by the legislative assembly. The elected state officials shall serve until their
23 successors are duly qualified. Terms of office of the elected officials except the public service
24 commissioners are four years, except that the term of the governor and lieutenant governor,
25 treasurer, secretary of state, and agriculture commissioner elected in 2000 must be for two

1 years. The terms of the public service commissioners are six years, so arranged that one of
2 them is elected every two years. The terms of the governor and lieutenant governor begin on
3 December fifteenth following their election.

4 If two or more candidates for any executive office other than for governor and lieutenant
5 governor receive an equal and highest number of votes, the legislative assembly in joint
6 session shall choose one of them for the office.