

Fifty-fifth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4045

Introduced by

Senator W. Stenehjem

Representative Kretschmar

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study state funding of the office of
2 clerk of district court, the issues and problems associated with the continued implementation of
3 court unification, and the effective provision of judicial services to the citizens of this state.

4 **WHEREAS**, since 1981, the judicial system has evolved through a series of
5 consolidation refinements culminating in 1991 legislation abolishing county courts, establishing
6 a single level trial court system, and requiring the reduction in total number of judges to 42 by
7 January 2, 2001; and

8 **WHEREAS**, clerks of district court are an integral part of the court system but their
9 status as elected county officials poses unique and significant issues concerning the effective
10 operation of the courts in providing judicial services; and

11 **WHEREAS**, continued implementation of court unification requires substantive review of
12 issues concerning the means of effectively providing judicial services with reduced judicial
13 resources, including the location of judicial services, facility standards for courthouses,
14 continued refinement of venue requirements, and methods of juror selection; and

15 **WHEREAS**, complex issues concerning state funding of the office of clerk of district
16 court and continued implementation of court unification and the impact upon counties, the
17 courts, and judicial services provided to North Dakota citizens are most proficiently considered
18 by a body with the reservoir of knowledge about the issues and reflecting the diverse interests,
19 needs, and allegiances of those affected by those issues;

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

22 That the Legislative Council study state funding of the office of clerk of district court, the
23 issues and problems associated with the continued implementation of court unification, and the
24 effective provision of judicial services to the citizens of this state; and

- 1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council consider including
2 representatives of clerks of court, county commissioners, and judges on the interim committee;
3 and
4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council report its findings and
5 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
6 the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly.