

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4030

Introduced by

Senators DeMers, Kinnoin, Traynor

Representatives Christopherson, D. Johnson, Kerzman

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the issues of welfare reform as
2 they relate to the relationship between the state and the federally recognized Indian tribes
3 within the state.

4 **WHEREAS**, Congress has enacted Public Law 104-193, which substantially reforms the
5 welfare system and which includes block grants to the states and to federally recognized Indian
6 tribes, if the tribes so choose, along with strict work requirements for recipients of public
7 assistance and time limits for recipients of public assistance; and

8 **WHEREAS**, members of federally recognized Indian tribes represent less than six
9 percent of the population of the state; however, approximately 25 percent of the welfare
10 caseload of the state is tribal members who live on reservations; and

11 **WHEREAS**, tribal economies have not been as strong as the economy of the remainder
12 of the state which will make compliance with the work participation rate requirements of the
13 welfare reform legislation more difficult to achieve on the reservations; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the federally recognized tribes in the state are undecided as to whether to
15 apply for state and federal block grants that would allow the tribes to design and administer
16 their own welfare system; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the federally recognized tribes in the state are unsure as to the role the
18 state should play, if any, in the development, funding, and administration of a tribally
19 administered welfare program;

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 the issues of welfare reform as they relate to the
23 relationship between the state and the federally recognized Indian tribes within the state; and

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