

**Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Monday, the sixth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4030**  
(Senators DeMers, Kinnoin, Traynor)  
(Representatives Christopherson, D. Johnson, Kerzman)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the federally recognized tribes in the state desire to engage in constructive dialogue with the state regarding welfare reform issues of mutual concern;

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

That the Legislative Council study the issues of welfare reform as they relate to the relationship between the state and the federally recognized Indian tribes within the state; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council, in conducting its study, shall solicit input from tribal members, tribal leaders, and tribal government officials interested in state and tribal welfare reform issues; and

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

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

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Secretary of the Senate

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Chief Clerk of the House

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1997,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

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Secretary of State