

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

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3042
(Representatives Jensen, Dorso, Boucher)
(Senator Nalewaja)**

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the department of human services.

WHEREAS, the 1981 Legislative Assembly created the Department of Human Services and consolidated the functions, powers, and duties of the Social Service Board, the Mental Health and Retardation Division of the Department of Health, the Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse of the Department of Health, and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities; and

WHEREAS, changes in federal funding, including block grants, provide the state an opportunity to change the human services delivery system; and

WHEREAS, the development of sophisticated computer systems and applications make information access easier and more efficient; and

WHEREAS, society has experienced significant changes since the consolidation and creation of the Department of Human Services, including an increase in youth-related problems, changes in family structure, changes in economic situations, a shift in population from rural to urban communities, and increases in prison populations; and

WHEREAS, in the area of medical services the state is experiencing increased costs, limited accessibility to services, the development of managed care options, and the deinstitutionalization of state institutions; and

WHEREAS, the combination of agencies was done to make more efficient the delivery of human services in North Dakota, to minimize the administrative costs of providing these services, and to eliminate the duplication of services; and

WHEREAS, the executive budget for the Department of Human Services for the 1997-99 biennium exceeds \$1.2 billion, of which \$342 million is from the state general fund, a complex budget providing funding for numerous organizational units making legislative analysis and oversight challenging;

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

That the Legislative Council study the Department of Human Services, including the appropriateness of a consolidated Department of Human Services in light of significant federal funding, society, and technology changes and including the changes necessary to enhance program effectiveness, legislative understanding, appropriation analysis and development, and oversight of the Department of Human Services; 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council may contract with firms or individuals having expertise in areas related to this study, and that the Department of Human Services shall provide such assistance as the committee may request.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

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

Secretary of State