

Fifty-fifth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3051

Introduced by

Representatives Kretschmar, Oban

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the feasibility and desirability
2 of scheduling a recess during the early part of the regular legislative session to provide
3 uninterrupted, productive time for standing committee work.

4 **WHEREAS**, the session schedule of the Legislative Assembly should ensure the most
5 efficient and effective use of legislators' and the public's time and resources; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution of North Dakota provides the Legislative Assembly with
7 flexibility for scheduling sessions and committees because days in regular session need not be
8 consecutive and standing committees may meet at any time during the biennium; and

9 **WHEREAS**, there may be a need, early in the legislative session, to allow more
10 sustained standing committee time for deliberation on bills and to provide more time for
11 opportunity for consultation among legislators and citizens; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the scheduling of a short recess for a period of time during the early part of
13 the legislative session could permit more focus on standing committee work that would expedite
14 and streamline the processing of bills, provide time for deliberation to improve the quality of
15 bills, improve the availability of information for legislators, and improve the quality of committee
16 deliberations; and

17 **WHEREAS**, an early recess for committee work would allow more time for involvement
18 of Legislative Council staff in providing bill analyses and legal research for standing committees
19 and individual legislators, provide bill summaries that analyze each bill before committee
20 hearings, provide more time for committee assessment of fiscal notes, and improve the
21 openness of the legislative process, citizen access, information, and participation;

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

1 That the Legislative Council study the feasibility and desirability of scheduling a recess
2 during the early part of the regular legislative session to provide uninterrupted, productive time
3 for standing committee work; 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.