

**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. 3001  
(Legislative Council)  
(Budget Committee on Government Finance)**

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the feasibility and desirability of funding the office of the clerk of district court through the unified judicial system.

**WHEREAS**, the people of this state approved a new judicial article of the Constitution of North Dakota in 1976 establishing a unified judicial system consisting of a Supreme Court, a district court, and such other courts as may be provided by law; and

**WHEREAS**, subsequent initial efforts resulted in substantial unification of the judicial system through consolidation of county courts by the 1981 Legislative Assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1991 Legislative Assembly considered further unification of the judicial system, enacting bills that provided a transitional process for establishing a single trial court of general jurisdiction by abolishing county courts and providing for additional district court judgeships but providing for the reduction in the total number of judges from 53 to 42 before January 2, 2001; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1989 Legislative Assembly enacted North Dakota Century Code Section 11-17-11, which provides a county option to transfer responsibility for funding the office of the clerk of district court to the state; and

**WHEREAS**, although this option provides a method of alleviating the cost to the counties of supporting district court functions, appropriations have not been provided to fund this option; and

**WHEREAS**, the feasibility and desirability of state funding of the office of the clerk of district court should be studied to assure that any changes made will benefit the citizens of the state and will serve the interests of the judicial system;

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

That the Legislative Council study the feasibility and desirability of funding the office of the clerk of district court through the unified judicial system; 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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Speaker of the House

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President of the Senate

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Chief Clerk of the House

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Secretary of the Senate

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State