

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. 4023
(Senators B. Stenehjem, Lee, Wogsland)
(Representatives Brown, Christenson, Wardner)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the process of privatization and contracting for public sector services.

WHEREAS, although North Dakota Century Code Chapter 54-44.4 sets forth comprehensive laws regarding the purchase of personal property by the state, the state may need to further establish comprehensive laws regarding the privatizing and contracting for public services to protect its citizens and effectively manage the resources of the state; and

WHEREAS, the state needs to have a rigorous methodology and process for determining whether privatization and contracting for services are appropriate, efficient, and effective; and

WHEREAS, the state has a compelling need to establish a framework for privatizing and contracting for services which provides formal access to decisionmaking, ensures an open bidding process, monitors existing contracts for compliance, and allows for involvement by citizens, legislators, public employees, and private sector contractors; and

WHEREAS, questions surrounding privatization and contracting for public services necessitate a study that identifies immediate and long-term advantages and disadvantages of privatization and contracting for public sector services, identifies barriers to making public sector services more efficient, develops accurate methodologies of comparing costs of similar public and private sector services, reviews performance standards for both public and private sector providers of public services, identifies goals and measurable results of public services provided by the private sector, develops identifiable and measurable review processes of all privatized contracts for contract continuance, including providing sufficient resources to monitor privatization contracts on an ongoing basis, and promotes public education on privatization and contracting for public sector services;

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

That the Legislative Council study the process of privatization and contracting for public sector services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council seek participation from representatives of the executive branch, higher education, political subdivisions, public employees and employee organizations, and private sector businesses; 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.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

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

Secretary of State