

Fifty-fifth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4048

Introduced by

Senator W. Stenehjem

Representatives Christenson, Price

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the interrelationship of the
2 postjudgment issues of child support and visitation, including the accountability of both parents
3 to honor divorce orders and the development of a parenting education program that addresses
4 the impact of divorce on children.

5 **WHEREAS**, nationwide, there are more than one million children each year whose
6 parents are involved in divorce proceedings; and

7 **WHEREAS**, research indicates that children of divorcing couples are at a greater risk
8 than children in two-parent families for a range of problems, from depression to poor grades to
9 substance abuse; and

10 **WHEREAS**, at least 10 states, including Iowa and Illinois, have enacted legislation that
11 provides for either voluntary or mandated education programs for divorcing parents; and

12 **WHEREAS**, each child has a right to be guided, nurtured, and supported emotionally,
13 physically, and financially by both parents regardless of the parents' marital status; and

14 **WHEREAS**, concerns have been expressed that there are inequities in the enforcement
15 of visitation orders and child support obligations;

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

18 That the Legislative Council study the interrelationship of the postjudgment issues of
19 child support and visitation, including the accountability of both parents to honor divorce orders
20 and the development of a parenting education program that addresses the impact of divorce on
21 children; and

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