

Fifty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4002

Introduced by

Legislative Council

(Budget Committee on Human Services)

1 A concurrent resolution urging the continued cooperation and coordination among county social
2 service agencies to provide for the delivery and administration of social services in a
3 cost-effective and efficient manner and to report to the Legislative Council and directing the
4 Legislative Council to monitor the cooperation and coordination among county social service
5 agencies.

6 **WHEREAS**, during the 1997-98 interim the Legislative Council's Budget Committee on
7 Human Services studied the organization of the Department of Human Services, including the
8 county social service role in the coordinated delivery of social services; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the committee's consultant recommended that county social services be
10 encouraged to continue to develop the delivery of social services in a consolidated manner; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the delivery of human services in North Dakota has been studied numerous
12 times, including the 1942 Public Administration Service study, the 1970 Touche Ross study,
13 and several Legislative Council interim committee studies; and

14 **WHEREAS**, previous Legislative Council studies resulted in recommendations that
15 county social services be delivered efficiently and county social service boards be encouraged
16 to plan and create fiscal efficiency and improved delivery of services by merging administration,
17 staff offices, and social workers; and

18 **WHEREAS**, previous Legislative Council studies have identified the significant efforts
19 that counties have made to date and that financial incentives and other state assistance and
20 encouragement should be provided to encourage counties to continue to develop the sharing of
21 services on a voluntary basis; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the 1997 Legislative Assembly approved House Bill No. 1041 that requires
23 counties to assume the financial responsibility for the administration of locally administered
24 economic assistance programs, such as medical assistance and temporary assistance for
25 needy families, which was intended, in part, to allow counties to assume a greater share of the

1 administrative and program costs in areas in which they exercise control while the state
2 assumed a greater share of costs in grant programs in which the state or the federal
3 government determines program parameters and payment levels; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the 1997-98 Budget Committee on Human Services learned that counties
5 are conducting time studies and as a result will be able to identify costs of social service
6 delivery on the county level that will assist county social service boards and county
7 commissions in determining local changes necessary to achieve efficiencies in the delivery of
8 social services;

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

11 That the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly encourages the continued cooperation and
12 coordination among county social service agencies to provide for the delivery and
13 administration of social services in a cost-effective and efficient manner; and

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council monitor the cooperation and
15 coordination among county social service agencies; and

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Department of Human Services is urged to
17 encourage and assist county social service agency efforts in voluntary consolidation and in
18 developing efficiencies in the delivery of county social services; and

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly recognizes the
20 need to support county social service agencies and the Department of Human Services efforts
21 through necessary legislation and financial support; and

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the North Dakota Association of County Social
23 Service Board Directors report to the Legislative Council during the 1999-2000 interim on the
24 cooperation and coordination among county social service agencies; and

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council report its findings and
26 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
27 the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly.