Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Tuesday, the fifth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3005 (Legislative Council) (Child Support Committee)

- A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the feasibility and desirability of facilitating pro se representation in domestic relations matters.
- WHEREAS, more than one-half of all actions filed in district courts involve domestic relations cases, including child support order modification proceedings and visitation enforcement proceedings; and
- **WHEREAS**, legal expenses associated with even the most basic of child support modification proceedings and visitation enforcement proceedings make these proceedings cost-prohibitive for most people; and
- **WHEREAS**, many low-income persons must rely on legal aid offices, child support enforcement units, or attorneys willing to do pro bono domestic relations cases for legal services; and
- WHEREAS, legal aid offices, child support enforcement units, and pro bono attorneys have limited resources to assist persons in domestic relations matters; and
- WHEREAS, there is a presumption that application of the child support guidelines results in the proper amount of child support, and it is usually in a child's best interests to have a relationship with both parents; and
- **WHEREAS**, lack of ability to pay for legal services may result in persons failing to seek modification of child support orders and enforcement of visitation;

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 facilitating pro se representation in domestic relations matters; 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-seventh Legislative Assembly.

H. C. R. No. 3005 - Page 2

Speaker of the House	President of the Senate
Chief Clerk of the House	Secretary of the Senate
Filed in this office this day of at o'clock M.	, 1999
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	Secretary of State