

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4032**

Introduced by

Senators W. Stenehjem, T. Mathern, G. Nelson

Representatives Boucher, Dorso

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the family law process in North  
2 Dakota with a focus on a review of existing statutes, the coordination of procedures, and the  
3 further implementation of alternative dispute resolution methods.

4 **WHEREAS**, more than half of all civil actions filed in district courts involve domestic  
5 relations cases, including divorce, separation, adult abuse, custody proceedings, support  
6 actions, adoptions, and paternity proceedings; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the existing judicial system provides for an adversarial proceeding for  
8 domestic relations cases which often compounds the negative impact of family dissolutions;  
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, constituents have expressed broad-based concerns regarding the existing  
11 family law system; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the statutes governing domestic relations are in need of updating and  
13 coordination; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Joint Family Law Task Force of the State Bar Association has  
15 considerable expertise and knowledge of court procedures and alternative systems in North  
16 Dakota and in other jurisdictions; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Joint Family Law Task Force of the State Bar Association has offered  
18 its assistance in conducting the study;

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

21 That the Legislative Council study the family law process in North Dakota with a focus  
22 on a review of existing statutes, the coordination of procedures, and the further implementation  
23 of alternative dispute resolution methods; and

- 1           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in conducting the study, the Legislative Council  
2   consider conducting meetings with the Joint Family Law Task Force of the State Bar  
3   Association; and  
4           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council report its findings and  
5   recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to  
6   the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly.