

Fifty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 3023

Introduced by

Representatives Warnke, Delmore, Wald

Senators Andrist, Krebsbach

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the desirability and feasibility
2 of establishing a regional dental school in North Dakota within the North Dakota University
3 System and in conjunction with the school of dentistry at the University of Minnesota.

4 **WHEREAS**, there are 56 dental schools in the United States; and

5 **WHEREAS**, 7,700 students applied for admission to dental school in 2000, which
6 represented a reduction of almost 14 percent since 1999 and a reduction of almost 21 percent
7 since 1997; and

8 **WHEREAS**, 4,234 students, or about 55 percent of applicants, were first-year enrollees
9 in dental schools in 2000; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the declining number of applicants to dental schools has been attributed at
11 least in part to a reluctance by students to assume more educational debt and assumptions
12 about the difficulty of gaining admittance to dental school; and

13 **WHEREAS**, a national decline in the applicant pool will make it more difficult for rural
14 states to recruit and retain dentists; and

15 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota already ranks well below the national average with respect to
16 the number of practicing dentists and 16 counties in this state have been designated as dental
17 health professional shortage areas; and

18 **WHEREAS**, a recent survey showed that more than 36 percent of the dentists
19 practicing in North Dakota were beyond the age of 50 and that by 2008 over 40 percent of the
20 dentists who were practicing in North Dakota in 1998 will have retired; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the shortage of dental health professionals will seriously affect the oral
22 health of many North Dakotans, and in particular, that of low-income North Dakotans; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the shortage of dental health professionals in North Dakota could be
24 significantly reduced if not alleviated by encouraging students to pursue careers in dentistry

1 and by providing them the opportunity to pursue a portion of the necessary curriculum in this
2 state; and

3 **WHEREAS**, a regional dental school concept in conjunction with an established dental
4 school may provide students greater exposure to the values and opportunities of a rural dental
5 practice setting;

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

8 That the Legislative Council study the feasibility and desirability of establishing a
9 regional dental school in North Dakota within the North Dakota University System and in
10 conjunction with the school of dentistry at the University of Minnesota; and

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council report its findings and
12 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
13 the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly.