

Introduced by

Representatives Grande, Belter, Wald

Senators Lyson, Stenehjem, Trenbeath

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the needs of individuals with  
2 mental illness, drug and alcohol addictions, and physical or developmental disabilities, including  
3 individuals with multiple needs, and how the state responds to those needs; the long-term plans  
4 for the State Hospital, the Developmental Center at Westwood Park, Grafton, state and county  
5 correctional facilities, and other state facilities and the relationships among those facilities; and  
6 the impact and availability of community services.

7 **WHEREAS**, changes in clinical practices and service delivery systems have created a  
8 need for new and different responses in caring for individuals with mental illness and drug and  
9 alcohol addictions; and

10 **WHEREAS**, community-based mental health treatment, service, and support options  
11 have been developed to support an individual's recovery in or near the individual's family and  
12 community; and

13 **WHEREAS**, a 2002 study of the operations and facilities of the Department of  
14 Corrections and Rehabilitation projected that the number of inmates in the state's prison system  
15 will continue to grow by approximately three percent annually; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the 2002 study indicated that the Department of Corrections and  
17 Rehabilitation will need additional bed space to avoid a critical prison capacity shortfall,  
18 especially for the female offenders; and

19 **WHEREAS**, consideration has been given to whether colocation of patients and  
20 prisoners is appropriate; and

21 **WHEREAS**, treatment and other programs that provide alternatives to incarceration  
22 may reduce the number of inmates and reduce recidivism;

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

1           That the Legislative Council study the needs of individuals with mental illness, drug and  
2 alcohol addictions, and physical or developmental disabilities, including individuals with multiple  
3 needs, and how the state responds to those needs; the long-term plans for the State Hospital,  
4 the Developmental Center at Westwood Park, Grafton, state and county correctional facilities,  
5 and other state facilities and the relationships among those facilities; and the impact and  
6 availability of community services; and

7           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in conducting the study, the Legislative Council  
8 solicit testimony from interested parties, including individuals receiving services, the individuals'  
9 families, administrators and staff at state and community facilities, the Department of Human  
10 Services, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, advocacy groups, and the  
11 governing boards of state facilities providing services to those individuals; and

12           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in conducting the study, the Legislative Council  
13 study the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of incarcerating large numbers of inmates in a large  
14 facility; and

15           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council may contract with an  
16 independent party to conduct the study; and

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