

Sixty-first  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

Introduced by

Representative Kempenich

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the feasibility and desirability  
2 of prohibiting the use, distribution, and sale of tobacco products in the state.

3 **WHEREAS**, tobacco use, which harms nearly every organ of the human body, causes  
4 more deaths each year than all deaths from human immunodeficiency virus, illegal drug use,  
5 alcohol use, motor vehicle injuries, suicides, and murders combined; and

6 **WHEREAS**, smoking remains the leading preventable cause of death in the United  
7 States, resulting in approximately 438,000 deaths annually; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in North Dakota, 877 adults die prematurely each year from illnesses  
9 caused by smoking; and

10 **WHEREAS**, secondhand smoke kills 80 to 140 North Dakotans each year; and

11 **WHEREAS**, approximately 11,000 North Dakota youth under the age of 18 are  
12 projected to die prematurely due to smoking; and

13 **WHEREAS**, although North Dakota's smoke-free law covers many businesses and  
14 public places, it does not protect employees and visitors in all businesses; and

15 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota receives less than \$22,000,000 in revenue annually from  
16 tobacco taxes, yet pays out \$442,000,000 in direct medical and lost productivity expenditures  
17 related to smoking and other tobacco use;

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

20 That the Legislative Council study the feasibility and desirability of prohibiting the use,  
21 distribution, and sale of tobacco products in the state; and

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council report its findings and  
23 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to  
24 the Sixty-second Legislative Assembly.