

Sixty-first
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

Introduced by

Representative Pinkerton

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the abandonment of animals;
2 ways in which people can be made aware of their responsibilities toward an animal; and ways
3 in which the laws can be strengthened to ensure that animals are not simply dropped off,
4 disposed of, or otherwise abandoned.

5 **WHEREAS**, each year countless animals are abandoned due to financial reasons,
6 behavioral reasons, housing, time commitments, and lifestyle choices; and

7 **WHEREAS**, many abandoned animals are domesticated and not equipped to survive on
8 their own; and

9 **WHEREAS**, many abandoned animals are fertile and continue to breed and create
10 more homeless animals that will eventually starve or freeze to death, spread infections and
11 disease, or be killed by cars or other animals; and

12 **WHEREAS**, animal abandonment is a crime in this state and anyone found abandoning
13 an animal is guilty of a class A misdemeanor; and

14 **WHEREAS**, most incidents of animal abandonment occur without witnesses; and

15 **WHEREAS**, taking responsibility for an animal often involves a multiyear or even a
16 multidecade commitment;

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

19 That the Legislative Council study the abandonment of animals, including dogs, cats,
20 horses, and pigs; ways in which people can be made aware of their responsibilities toward an
21 animal; and ways in which the laws can be strengthened to ensure that animals are not simply
22 dropped off, disposed of, or otherwise abandoned; and

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