

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying and researching the impact of substance abuse and neonatal withdrawal syndrome, including a focus on fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs), including treatment, services available, potential prevention, and whether existing policies for children and adults are appropriate.

WHEREAS, FASDs are a group of conditions, including fetal alcohol syndrome, which can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy and which may include physical problems and problems with behavior and learning; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, the Legislative Assembly created the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Center at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences; and

WHEREAS, the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Center publishes an annual report on the status of FASDs in the state; and

WHEREAS, although the prevalence of FASDs is 1 to 5 percent of live births in North Dakota, only 5 to 15 percent will be diagnosed with FASDs; and

WHEREAS, there is an increased cost of medical care services for a child with FASDs, with an annual excess cost for medical care due to FASDs of \$4,403 per case, and the cost of inpatient medical care for each case of FASDs to age 18 being \$95,034; and

WHEREAS, in addition to medical care, the cost to a family to care for a child with FASDs is \$17,400 per year, including expenses for travel, meals and lodging, insurance deductibles, vacation and sick leave, child care, work-related costs, and deferred promotions; and

WHEREAS, although prenatal alcohol exposure often occurs with other substance abuse and often is not detected, of all the substances of abuse, alcohol produces by far the most serious adverse effects for the fetus; and

WHEREAS, if a woman has a child with FASDs and continues to drink, the woman has more than a 75 percent chance of having another child with FASDs;

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

That the Legislative Management consider studying and researching the impact of substance abuse and neonatal withdrawal syndrome, including a focus on FASDs, including treatment, services available, potential prevention, and whether existing policies for children and adults are appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Management report its findings and recommendations, incorporating the task force on substance exposed newborns recommendations as a result of 2015 Senate Bill No. 2367, as approved by the sixty-fourth legislative assembly, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly.