

Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Monday, the sixth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4048

(Senator W. Stenehjem)

(Representatives Christenson, Price)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the interrelationship of the postjudgment issues of child support and visitation, including the accountability of both parents to honor divorce orders and the development of a parenting education program that addresses the impact of divorce on children.

WHEREAS, nationwide, there are more than one million children each year whose parents are involved in divorce proceedings; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that children of divorcing couples are at a greater risk than children in two-parent families for a range of problems, from depression to poor grades to substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, at least 10 states, including Iowa and Illinois, have enacted legislation that provides for either voluntary or mandated education programs for divorcing parents; and

WHEREAS, each child has a right to be guided, nurtured, and supported emotionally, physically, and financially by both parents regardless of the parents' marital status; and

WHEREAS, concerns have been expressed that there are inequities in the enforcement of visitation orders and child support obligations;

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

That the Legislative Council study the interrelationship of the postjudgment issues of child support and visitation, including the accountability of both parents to honor divorce orders and the development of a parenting education program that addresses the impact of divorce on children; and

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 1997,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State