

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3042

Introduced by

Representatives Jensen, Dorso, Boucher

Senator Nalewaja

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the department of human  
2 services.

3 **WHEREAS**, the 1981 Legislative Assembly created the Department of Human Services  
4 and consolidated the functions, powers, and duties of the Social Service Board, the Mental  
5 Health and Retardation Division of the Department of Health, the Division of Alcoholism and  
6 Drug Abuse of the Department of Health, and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities;  
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, changes in federal funding, including block grants, provide the state an  
9 opportunity to change the human services delivery system; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the development of sophisticated computer systems and applications make  
11 information access easier and more efficient; and

12 **WHEREAS**, society has experienced significant changes since the consolidation and  
13 creation of the Department of Human Services, including an increase in youth-related problems,  
14 changes in family structure, changes in economic situations, a shift in population from rural to  
15 urban communities, and increases in prison populations; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in the area of medical services the state is experiencing increased costs,  
17 limited accessibility to services, the development of managed care options, and the  
18 deinstitutionalization of state institutions; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the combination of agencies was done to make more efficient the delivery  
20 of human services in North Dakota, to minimize the administrative costs of providing these  
21 services, and to eliminate the duplication of services; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the executive budget for the Department of Human Services for the  
23 1997-99 biennium exceeds \$1.2 billion, of which \$342 million is from the state general fund, a  
24 complex budget providing funding for numerous organizational units making legislative analysis  
25 and oversight challenging;

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

3           That the Legislative Council study the Department of Human Services, including the  
4   appropriateness of a consolidated Department of Human Services in light of significant federal  
5   funding, society, and technology changes and including the changes necessary to enhance  
6   program effectiveness, legislative understanding, appropriation analysis and development, and  
7   oversight of the Department of Human Services; and

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

11          **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council may contract with firms or  
12   individuals having expertise in areas related to this study, and that the Department of Human  
13   Services shall provide such assistance as the committee may request.