

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4032  
(Senators W. Stenehjem, T. Mathern, G. Nelson)  
(Representatives Boucher, Dorso)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the family law process in North Dakota with a focus on a review of existing statutes, the coordination of procedures, and the further implementation of alternative dispute resolution methods.

**WHEREAS**, more than half of all civil actions filed in district courts involve domestic relations cases, including divorce, separation, adult abuse, custody proceedings, support actions, adoptions, and paternity proceedings; and

**WHEREAS**, the existing judicial system provides for an adversarial proceeding for domestic relations cases which often compounds the negative impact of family dissolutions; and

**WHEREAS**, constituents have expressed broad-based concerns regarding the existing family law system; and

**WHEREAS**, the statutes governing domestic relations are in need of updating and coordination; and

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Family Law Task Force of the State Bar Association has considerable expertise and knowledge of court procedures and alternative systems in North Dakota and in other jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Family Law Task Force of the State Bar Association has offered its assistance in conducting the study;

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

That the Legislative Council study the family law process in North Dakota with a focus on a review of existing statutes, the coordination of procedures, and the further implementation of alternative dispute resolution methods; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in conducting the study, the Legislative Council consider conducting meetings with the Joint Family Law Task Force of the State Bar Association; 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-seventh Legislative Assembly.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

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Secretary of the Senate

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Chief Clerk of the House

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1999,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

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Secretary of State