

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4021**

Introduced by

Senator Mathern

Representative Price

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study changing the mission of the  
2 State Hospital from one of caring for individuals with mental illness and individuals with drug  
3 and alcohol addictions and develop legislation to change the role to a mission of caring for and  
4 housing inmates with mental illness and drug and alcohol addictions and conducting offender  
5 assessments, transferring the authority for the State Hospital facilities from the Department of  
6 Human Services to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and requiring the  
7 Department of Human Services to contract with mental health care providers and up to four  
8 regional hospitals to provide for the care of individuals with mental illness and drug and alcohol  
9 addictions.

10 **WHEREAS**, changes in clinical practices and service delivery systems have created a  
11 need for new and different responses in caring for individuals with mental illness and drug and  
12 alcohol addictions; and

13 **WHEREAS**, over the past decade, more community-based mental health treatment,  
14 service, and support options have been developed to support an individual's recovery in or near  
15 the individual's own community; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the State Hospital's total admissions have decreased from 1,734 patients in  
17 1997 to a projected 808 patients in 2003, and of those 808 patients, 82 are projected to be  
18 offenders who are being treated in the State Hospital's corrections rehabilitation and recovery  
19 program; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the average daily population of the State Hospital has decreased from 228  
21 patients in 1997 to a projected 160 patients in 2003, and of those 160 patients, 25 are projected  
22 to be offenders who are being treated in the State Hospital's corrections rehabilitation and  
23 recovery program; and

24 **WHEREAS**, a 2002 study of the operations and facilities of the Department of  
25 Corrections and Rehabilitation projected that the number of inmates in the state's prison system

1 will continue to grow by approximately 3 percent annually, resulting in an additional 415  
2 offenders by 2012; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the 2002 study projected that the female population will grow even faster,  
4 adding 84 inmates over the next 10 years, a 67 percent increase over the current population;  
5 and

6 **WHEREAS**, the 2002 study indicated that for the Department of Corrections and  
7 Rehabilitation to avoid a critical prison capacity shortfall, especially for the female offenders,  
8 additional bed space is necessary; and

9 **WHEREAS**, of the inmates admitted in 2001, one-third of the male admissions and  
10 one-fifth of the female admissions reported daily alcohol use prior to incarceration and over  
11 one-third of the male admissions and one-half of the female admissions reported daily drug use  
12 prior to incarceration; and

13 **WHEREAS**, of the inmates admitted in 2001, major mental health disorders, including  
14 schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and suicidal tendencies, were reported in 10.3 percent of males  
15 and 14.1 percent of females, and depression was reported in 18.1 percent of males and  
16 30.3 percent of females; and

17 **WHEREAS**, a change in the mission of the State Hospital may require constitutional  
18 amendment;

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

21 That the Legislative Council study changing the mission of the State Hospital from one  
22 of caring for individuals with mental illness and individuals with drug and alcohol addictions and  
23 develop legislation to change the role to a mission of caring for and housing inmates with  
24 mental illness and drug and alcohol addictions and conducting offender assessments,  
25 transferring the authority for the State Hospital facilities from the Department of Human  
26 Services to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and requiring the Department of  
27 Human Services to contract with mental health care providers and up to four regional hospitals  
28 to provide for the care of individuals with mental illness and drug and alcohol addictions; and

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