

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3037

Introduced by

Representatives Grande, Belter, Wald

Senators Lyson, Stenehjem, Trenbeath

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the state's criminal justice
2 process from arrest to release, including the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of incarcerating
3 large numbers of inmates in a large facility, the use of electronic monitoring as an alternative to
4 incarceration, and the effectiveness of sentencing laws, incarceration, and treatment.

5 **WHEREAS**, a seamless transition through the criminal justice process from arrest to
6 release should be the goal of the state's courts and correctional system; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the average daily inmate population in North Dakota prisons nearly doubled
8 from 1993 to 2001, rising from 567 in 1993 to 1,099 in 2001 and is projected to increase to an
9 average daily population of 1,257 inmates in 2007 and 1,417 inmates in 2012, an annual
10 increase of 33 inmates or 2.7 percent per year through 2012; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the state's female inmate population is projected to increase to an average
12 population of 163 in 2007 and 208 inmates in 2012, an annual increase of 8 inmates or
13 5.3 percent per year through 2012; and

14 **WHEREAS**, during the 2001-03 interim, the Legislative Council's interim Corrections
15 Committee studied the facilities and operations of the Department of Corrections and
16 Rehabilitation and continued study should be made of the use of available correctional facilities;
17 and

18 **WHEREAS**, the privatization of the state's correctional facilities has been reported to be
19 a cost-effective and efficient method of housing a state's inmate population; and

20 **WHEREAS**, a study should be made of the property tax impact of constructing private
21 correctional facilities rather than additional public correctional facilities; and

22 **WHEREAS**, concerns exist with the escalation of methamphetamine and other
23 controlled substance use and the adequacy of the state's sentencing laws to deal with this
24 problem; and

1 **WHEREAS**, treatment and other programs that provide alternatives to incarceration
2 may reduce the number of inmates and reduce recidivism;

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

5 That the Legislative Council study the state's criminal justice process from arrest to
6 release, including the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of incarcerating large numbers of
7 inmates in a large facility, the use of electronic monitoring as an alternative to incarceration, and
8 the effectiveness of sentencing laws, incarceration, and treatment; and

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