

Introduced by

Representatives Grande, Belter, Wald

Senators Lyson, Stenehjem, Trenbeath

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the needs of individuals with
2 mental illness, drug and alcohol addictions, and physical or developmental disabilities, including
3 individuals with multiple needs, and how the state responds to those needs; the long-term plans
4 for the State Hospital, the Developmental Center at Westwood Park, Grafton, state and county
5 correctional facilities, and other state facilities and the relationships among those facilities; the
6 impact and availability of community services; the state's criminal justice process from arrest to
7 release; alternatives to incarceration; and the effectiveness of incarceration and treatment.

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

11 **WHEREAS**, community-based mental health treatment, service, and support options
12 have been developed to support an individual's recovery in or near the individual's family and
13 community; and

14 **WHEREAS**, a 2002 study of the operations and facilities of the Department of
15 Corrections and Rehabilitation projected that the number of inmates in the state's prison system
16 will continue to grow by approximately three percent annually; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the 2002 study indicated that the Department of Corrections and
18 Rehabilitation will need additional bed space to avoid a critical prison capacity shortfall,
19 especially for the female offenders; and

20 **WHEREAS**, consideration has been given to whether colocation of patients and
21 prisoners is appropriate; and

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

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

1 That the Legislative Council study the needs of individuals with mental illness, drug and
2 alcohol addictions, and physical or developmental disabilities, including individuals with multiple
3 needs, and how the state responds to those needs; the long-term plans for the State Hospital,
4 the Developmental Center at Westwood Park, Grafton, state and county correctional facilities,
5 and other state facilities and the relationships among those facilities; the impact and availability
6 of community services; the state's criminal justice process from arrest to release; alternatives to
7 incarceration; and the effectiveness of incarceration and treatment; and

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in conducting the study, the Legislative Council
9 solicit testimony from interested parties, including individuals receiving services, the individuals'
10 families, administrators and staff at state and community facilities, the Department of Human
11 Services, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, advocacy groups, and the
12 governing boards of state facilities providing services to those individuals; and

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in conducting the study, the Legislative Council
14 study the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of incarcerating large numbers of inmates in a large
15 facility; and

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council may contract with an
17 independent party to conduct the study; and

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