

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4029

Introduced by

Senators Robinson, Bercier

Representatives Boucher, Drovdal, Onstad

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study issues relating to the Indian
2 population of the state, including sovereignty, educational opportunities, population
3 dispersement, unemployment, health concerns, suicide rates, living conditions, and impact on
4 the caseloads of the Department of Human Services and the Department of Corrections and
5 Rehabilitation.

6 **WHEREAS**, five federally recognized tribes and one Indian community are located
7 partially or in whole in the state; and

8 **WHEREAS**, according to the 2000 census, the North Dakota Indian population was
9 35,228 or 5.5 percent of the state's total population; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the poverty rate for Indians in North Dakota is more than three times the
11 rate for the state; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the prevalence of diabetes is nearly three times higher among Indians than
13 it is among white non-Hispanics and other races; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the suicide rate for Indian youth between the ages of 15 and 24 is
15 382 percent higher than for non-Indian youth in the state; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Indians are 7.5 times as likely to live in households without adequate
17 sanitation facilities as the general North Dakota population; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Indian families account for approximately 57 percent of the temporary
19 assistance for needy families caseload; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the unemployment rate on the state's Indian reservations averages
21 55 percent; and

22 **WHEREAS**, in 2001, of the 751 new admissions to the Department of Corrections and
23 Rehabilitation, Indians accounted for 18 percent of the male admissions and 27 percent of the
24 female admissions;

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

3 That the Legislative Council study issues relating to the Indian population of the state,
4 including sovereignty, educational opportunities, population dispersement, unemployment,
5 health concerns, suicide rates, living conditions, and impact on the caseloads of the
6 Department of Human Services and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; and

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