

**Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2003**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4029  
(Senators Robinson, Bercier)  
(Representatives Boucher, Drovdal, Onstad)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

That the Legislative Council study issues relating to the Indian population of the state, including sovereignty, educational opportunities, cultural understanding, population dispersement, unemployment, health concerns, suicide rates, living conditions, and impact on the caseloads of the Department of Human Services and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; 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-ninth 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2003,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

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Secretary of State