

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3065

Introduced by

Representative Boucher

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study whether water resource district
2 board members or water managers should be elected rather than appointed.

3 **WHEREAS**, under current law, water resource district boards may have three, five, or
4 seven water managers, who are appointed by the board of county commissioners; and

5 **WHEREAS**, water managers are responsible for managing water resources within the
6 boundaries of the water resource district and have the authority to develop and finance water
7 projects, enforce illegal drainage, remove negligent obstructions to drains and watercourses,
8 and prohibit the illegal construction of dikes, dams, and other devices; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the governing bodies of most local entities are elected by their
10 constituencies and the citizens of North Dakota cherish representative government and the
11 exercise of their elective franchise; and

12 **WHEREAS**, water managers are responsible for implementing public policy regarding
13 the regulation of the state's water resources and they may be more responsive to the people's
14 wishes if they are elected rather than appointed;

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

17 That the Legislative Council study whether water resource district board members or
18 water managers should be elected rather than appointed; and

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