

FIRST ENGROSSMENT

**ENGROSSED HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 3018**

Introduced by

Representatives Beltz, Brandenburg, Frelich, Grueneich, Mitskog, Schreiber-Beck, Swiontek,
Weisz

Senators Sorvaag, Thomas, Wanzek

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying water and
2 wetlands regulations and the taxation of inundated lands in the state.

3 **WHEREAS**, the management of water and wetlands resources is a complex issue with
4 significant implications for public health, economic development, and agriculture; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the jurisdiction over water and wetlands often is unclear and involves multiple
6 levels of government, including federal, state, and local agencies; and

7 **WHEREAS**, overlapping jurisdictions can create confusion, delays, and inconsistencies in
8 the regulation and management of water and wetlands; and

9 **WHEREAS**, boards of county commissioners are authorized to remove from the tax rolls all
10 inundated lands, often resulting in inconsistent application; and

11 **WHEREAS**, a comprehensive study of the jurisdictional framework is necessary to identify
12 potential conflicts, overlaps, and gaps in authority and tax treatment; and

13 **WHEREAS**, a study will provide valuable information to the Legislative Assembly in
14 developing effective and efficient policies for the protection and management of water and
15 wetlands resources; and

16 **WHEREAS**, addressing confusion and property disputes caused by the declaration of
17 navigability and property titles deriving from patents issued by the United States will provide
18 valuable information to the Legislative Assembly concerning the determination of lawful
19 ownership and tax treatment;

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

22 That Legislative Management shall consider studying water and wetlands regulations and
23 the taxation of inundated lands in the state; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the study must include an examination of the regulation of
2 water, wetlands, and inundated lands laws of other states; an inventory of all federal, state, and
3 local laws, regulations, and policies relating to the jurisdiction of water and wetlands; an
4 analysis of the environmental protection and public health jurisdictional framework, including an
5 identification of potential conflicts, overlaps, and gaps in authority; and recommendations for
6 improving the clarity, consistency, and efficiency of the jurisdictional framework in water
7 management; and
8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Management report its findings and
9 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
10 the Seventieth Legislative Assembly.