

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

CHAPTER 636

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4001

(Legislative Management)
(Budget Section)

A concurrent resolution authorizing the Budget Section of the Legislative Management to hold the required legislative hearings on state plans for the receipt and expenditure of new or revised block grants passed by Congress.

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States enacted the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 creating the community services block grant program; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Assembly is required to conduct public hearings; and

WHEREAS, the Appropriations Committees have met the public hearing requirement for community services block grant program money expected for the next biennium by the Department of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly cannot hold public hearings on revisions to current block grants or additional block grants that may be approved by Congress after recess or adjournment of the Legislative Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Assembly will not meet in regular session during 2026, and thus its public hearing responsibility for grants not approved by the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly must be delegated to a legislative entity;

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

That the Department of Commerce appropriation bill enacted by the Legislative Assembly is the Legislative Assembly's approval of and contains directions regarding the use of community services block grant program money for the period ending September 30, 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Budget Section of the Legislative Management may hold the public legislative hearings required for the receipt of additional block grants or other federal moneys under the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 or other relevant federal statutes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the authority granted by this resolution is in effect during the period from the recess or adjournment of the Sixty-ninth Legislative

Assembly through September 30, 2027, and the Budget Section may provide public notice and hold the hearings authorized by this resolution using the methods and procedures it deems appropriate.

Filed April 1, 2025

CHAPTER 637

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4002

(Senators Conley, Hogue, Thomas, Wanzek)
(Representatives Headland, Lefor)

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to enact legislation allowing a landowner to terminate a perpetual easement owned by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service within the state.

WHEREAS, the Constitution of North Dakota provides all individuals are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inalienable rights, among which are those of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property and reputation; and

WHEREAS, Section 47-05-02.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is evidence of the state's strong aversion to perpetual easements on real property in the state; and

WHEREAS, despite the law limiting perpetual easements, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service owns tens of thousands of perpetual easements in the state covering more than one million acres, many of which are located on agricultural land; and

WHEREAS, under these perpetual easements, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service enforces unduly burdensome federal regulations and requirements; and

WHEREAS, the imposition and enforcement of these federal requirements negatively infringes on basic private property rights, including the ability to drain ponds, plant crops, and conduct ranching operations; and

WHEREAS, landowners subject to these perpetual easements should be afforded the opportunity to terminate the easements by paying to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service the purchase price of the easement on the effective date of the easement;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges Congress to enact legislation allowing a landowner to terminate a perpetual easement owned by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service within the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior, each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation, and the Governors of Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Filed April 3, 2025

CHAPTER 638**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4005**

(Senator Dever)
(Representative Novak)

A concurrent resolution designating House and Senate employment positions and fixing compensation.

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

That for the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly, the following positions are designated as employee positions of the House and Senate and are to be paid the daily wages indicated:

HOUSE

Chief clerk	\$239
Assistant chief clerk	213
Journal reporter	228
Calendar clerk	213
Bill and recording clerk	207
Sergeant-at-arms	190
Administrative assistant to majority leader	207
Staff assistant to majority leader	207
Administrative assistant to minority leader	207
Staff assistant to minority leader	207
Administrative assistant to Speaker	207
Deputy chief clerk	220
Quality assurance clerk	207
Procedural appropriations committee clerk	207
Technological appropriations committee clerk	207
Procedural assistant appropriations committee clerk	200
Technological assistant appropriations committee clerk	200
Procedural committee clerk	200
Technological committee clerk	200
Deputy sergeant-at-arms	160
Assistant sergeant-at-arms	149
Chief legislative assistant	161
Legislative assistant - page	136

SENATE

Secretary of the Senate	\$239
Assistant secretary of the Senate	213
Journal reporter	228
Calendar clerk	213
Bill and recording clerk	207
Sergeant-at-arms	190

Administrative assistant to majority leader	207
Staff assistant to majority leader	207
Administrative assistant to minority leader	207
Staff assistant to minority leader	207
Chief committee clerk	220
Quality assurance clerk	207
Procedural appropriations committee clerk	207
Technological appropriations committee clerk	207
Procedural assistant appropriations committee clerk	200
Technological assistant appropriations committee clerk	200
Procedural committee clerk	200
Technological committee clerk	200
Deputy sergeant-at-arms	160
Assistant sergeant-at-arms	149
Chief page	161
Legislative assistant - page	136
Legislative assistant - supply room coordinator	149

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each employee of the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly is entitled to an additional \$1 per day for each previous regular session of the Legislative Assembly during which that employee was paid for at least 45 days, as either an employee of the House or the Senate, and to receive this additional compensation, which may not exceed \$10 per day, that employee must certify to the Legislative Council the year of each regular session during which that employee was employed as required by this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each majority and each minority leader is entitled to one administrative assistant and two staff assistants, but each majority or minority leader may hire fewer or more assistants so long as the total daily compensation for the assistants hired does not exceed the total daily amount authorized for those positions by this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the report of the Employment Committee of the respective house identify the number of employees in each position by listing every employee and the position for which employed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that with the approval of the Employment Committee of the respective house, a position may be converted to a part-time position, with the daily compensation converted to a per-hour rate of pay, and a part-time employee may hold more than one part-time position so long as the positions held do not exceed a full-time equivalent position; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, an employee is entitled to pay for any day the Legislative Assembly is in recess and any employee is required to be present for committee hearings or other legislative business; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if any employee resigns, is discharged, or for other reasons terminates employment, the compensation provided by this resolution for that employee ceases effective the last day of employment.

Filed January 21, 2025

CHAPTER 639

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4006

(Senators Boschee, Patten, Rummel)
(Representatives Lefor, J. Olson, Steiner)

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to establish federal protections for the wild horse herd at Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

WHEREAS, Theodore Roosevelt was an American statesman, conservationist, historian, and writer, who served as the twenty-sixth President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, Theodore Roosevelt National Park became the only national park named directly for a single person; and

WHEREAS, the wild horse herd, which was present during Theodore Roosevelt's era and contributes to the historical setting and the culture of North Dakota, should be preserved as part of our state's history; and

WHEREAS, the wild horses of Theodore Roosevelt National Park bring tourism and economic benefits to the state; and

WHEREAS, there are significant concerns regarding the management of the wild horse herd by Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the long-term health and preservation of the herd;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges Congress to enact legislation establishing federal protections for the wild horse herd of Theodore Roosevelt National Park to ensure the long-term health and preservation of the herd for generations to come; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the National Park Service, the Superintendent of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation, the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Filed April 1, 2025

CHAPTER 640**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4012**

(Senators Klein, Erbele, Lemm)
(Representatives Beltz, Nelson)

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to permit the use of M-44 sodium cyanide devices on any land.

WHEREAS, M-44 sodium cyanide devices are effective tools used to control wild animals that prey upon livestock, as well as threatened and endangered species; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services uses the M-44 sodium cyanide devices to control predators and assist livestock producers; and

WHEREAS, when properly used, M-44 sodium cyanide devices pose no occupational risk to humans; and

WHEREAS, United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services has employed strict safety precautions including the use of warning signs; and

WHEREAS, the loss of the M-44 sodium cyanide device has impaired the duties of the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services and its ability to address predator control;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges Congress to permit the use of M-44 sodium cyanide devices on any land; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Filed April 3, 2025

CHAPTER 641

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4013

(Senators Sickler, Erbele, Klein, Meyer)
(Representative Bahl)

A concurrent resolution to support the electoral college, denounce the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, and invite interested states to form the Electoral College Interstate Compact.

WHEREAS, the electoral college system respects states as the essential units in our federal republic, protecting states' power and voice in presidential elections; and

WHEREAS, the electoral college system creates an appropriate balance between rural and urban interests and ensures the winning candidate has support from multiple regions of the country; and

WHEREAS, the electoral college system ensures each state's electoral votes are awarded based on how the state's citizens vote; and

WHEREAS, the nation's founders' rejected a national popular vote for president and instead created the Electoral College; and

WHEREAS, the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact diminishes the importance of individual states in presidential elections, creates the potential for nationwide recounts, and opens the door to greater federal control of elections; and

WHEREAS, the constitutionality of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is doubtful because it appears to violate the Compact Clause of the United States Constitution and the intent of the electoral college clauses;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly supports the Electoral College and believes the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact may be unconstitutional; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in response to the creation of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, North Dakota and all other interested states should consider forming an Electoral College Interstate Compact, which would prohibit requiring state electors to cast electoral college votes in accordance with the national popular vote count for President and require the compact states to legally challenge the constitutionality of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this state proposes forming the Electoral College Interstate Compact when four other states declare intent to form the Electoral College Interstate Compact, at which time the interested states shall take appropriate steps to organize and form the compact; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Secretaries of State and majority and minority leaders in each legislative chamber in the states of Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Filed March 26, 2025

CHAPTER 642

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4017

(Senators Enget, Hogan, Hogue, Klein, Mathern)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying the detrimental impacts of pornography.

WHEREAS, sexually explicit content is widely available and consumers often are unaware of the risk posed by such material; and

WHEREAS, children may be exposed to pornography and early exposure may lead to low self-esteem, body image disorders, unhealthy sexual expectations, and the association of violence with sexual gratification; and

WHEREAS, the adult entertainment industry produces media that objectifies women and children, and depicts rape and abuse, perpetuating the demand for sex trafficking, prostitution, child pornography, and sexual abuse images; and

WHEREAS, pornography has been linked to detrimental effects and societal problems, and it is of paramount importance that our leaders address this issue;

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

That the Legislative Management consider studying the detrimental impacts of pornography; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study analyze the current efforts for education, prevention, and research related to the consequences of pornography, examine potential policy changes, and include input from the relevant state agencies and other stakeholders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Management report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the Seventieth Legislative Assembly.

Filed April 28, 2025

CHAPTER 643

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4018

(Senators Boschee, Klein)
(Representatives Fegley, Frelich, Porter, Weisz)

A concurrent resolution urging the Capitol Grounds Planning Commission to initiate the planning and development of a line of duty death memorial dedicated to honoring both volunteer and career Emergency Medical Services personnel who have lost their lives in service to the state.

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services personnel, both volunteer and career, serve the citizens of North Dakota with dedication and professionalism, often placing themselves in harms way to provide critical care; and

WHEREAS, the nature of Emergency Medical Services work exposes individuals to significant risk, leading to line of duty deaths that profoundly impact families, communities, and the state; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota has a substantial Emergency Medical Services workforce, including 688 paramedics, 1,703 emergency medical technicians, 1,547 emergency medical responders, and 1,075 emergency vehicle operators, who collectively ensure the health and safety of residents across the state; and

WHEREAS, the Capitol Grounds Planning Commission is vested with the authority to approve the style, exterior construction, and site of any monument, memorial, or work of art on the Capitol grounds, as well as to accept or reject gifts intended for such purposes; and

WHEREAS, establishing a memorial on the Capitol grounds would serve as a lasting tribute to the Emergency Medical Services personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges the Capitol Grounds Planning Commission to initiate the planning and development of a line of duty death memorial dedicated to honoring both volunteer and career Emergency Medical Services personnel who have lost their lives in service to the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Capitol Grounds Planning Commission collaborate with the Emergency Medical Services Division of the Department of Health and Human Services, the North Dakota Emergency Medical Services Association, and other associated organizations to ensure the memorial appropriately reflects the sacrifices of these individuals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Capitol Grounds Planning Commission explore potential funding sources, including public and private donations, grants, and other appropriate sources, to finance the design, construction, and maintenance of the memorial; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Senate forward copies of this resolution to the members of the Capitol Grounds Planning Commission and the Director of the North Dakota Office of Management and Budget.

Filed March 19, 2025

CHAPTER 644

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4019

(Senators Boschee, Axtman)
(Representatives Richter, Schreiber-Beck)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying reading and mathematics proficiency rates among students in the state with disabilities and the effectiveness of current educational policies, programs, and resource allocations in addressing any disparities.

WHEREAS, North Dakota recognizes the importance of providing equitable and sufficient funding to meet the needs of students requiring special education services; and

WHEREAS, over the past 50 years, the Education for All Handicapped Children Act [Pub. L. 94-142; 89 Stat. 773], later reauthorized as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1990 [20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.] has ensured children with disabilities have the right to a free, appropriate public education and has significantly expanded access to education for millions of students, reduced discriminatory practices, and established critical frameworks for individualized learning plans and inclusion in general education settings; and

WHEREAS, approximately 16 percent of the student population in the state has been identified as having disabilities and receiving special education services; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Kindergarten through Grade Twelve Education Coordination Council has established the goal to reduce the disparity in achievement for students with disabilities, students in poverty, and Native American students; and

WHEREAS, transparency and accessibility for parents to review and understand their child's special education services and contracts are essential for fostering trust and ensuring quality education;

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

That the Legislative Management consider studying reading and mathematics proficiency rates among students in the state with disabilities and the effectiveness of current educational policies, programs, and resource allocations in addressing any disparities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the study include an examination of academic disparities, analyzing the latest student performance data on statewide reading and mathematics assessments to identify trends and disparities affecting students with disabilities and comparing the subgroup performance to overall state proficiency rates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the study include an identification of contributing factors, evaluating systemic barriers contributing to low proficiency rates, including funding for special education services, limited access to trained teachers and support staff, geographic disparities between rural and urban areas, and accessibility of evidence-based curriculum and instructional strategies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the study include an assessment of existing policies and programs, reviewing the implementation and impact of current state and federally funded programs and identifying gaps in policy, funding, and program effectiveness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the study include the engagement of stakeholders, soliciting input from parents and families of students with disabilities to ensure parent involvement in decisionmaking, educators, school administrators, special education professionals, and advocacy groups focused on disability rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the study include research of best practices, examining successful models and initiatives in states that have effectively reduced proficiency disparities and exploring innovative approaches in early literacy, numeracy, and equitable education practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the study include consideration of actionable policy and funding recommendations aimed at reducing proficiency disparities, expanding access to high-quality, evidence-based educational programs, enhancing transparency in costs and resource allocation, and improving accountability and data transparency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Management report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the Seventieth Legislative Assembly.

Filed March 27, 2025

CHAPTER 645

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4020

(Senators Hogue, Bekkedahl, Hogan)
(Representatives Ista, Lefor, Weisz)

A concurrent resolution recognizing and commending the National Conference of State Legislatures on its 50th anniversary in 2025.

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures was founded in 1975 and has evolved during the past half-century to become the premier organization solely dedicated to serving state and territorial legislators and legislative staff; and

WHEREAS, the conference was created from the merger of three organizations that served or represented state legislatures and shared the belief that legislative service is one of democracy's worthiest pursuits; and

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures is a bipartisan organization with several objectives, including advancing the effectiveness, independence, and integrity of state legislatures; fostering interstate communication and cooperation; and ensuring for states a strong, cohesive voice in the federal system; and

WHEREAS, our nation's state legislatures are America's laboratories of democracy that continuously tackle emerging challenges; and

WHEREAS, state legislatures are places where individuals from varying backgrounds, representing different communities, come together and find common ground; and

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures has facilitated the exchange of ideas, provided critical research and information, and encouraged a rigorous review of complex issues confronting our communities, states, and nation; and

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures strives to strengthen the bonds between America's state legislatures and the international community;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly recognizes and commends the National Conference of State Legislatures for its superb leadership and its commitment to the legislative institution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward a copy of this resolution to the Chief Executive Officer of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Filed March 25, 2025

CHAPTER 646

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4021

(Senator Gerhardt)

A concurrent resolution urging the United States Federal Government, Congress, and the Governor of North Dakota to end the disadvantaged business enterprise program.

WHEREAS, the President Donald J. Trump issued executive orders directing federal agencies to align with the administration's policy to terminate diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives (DEI); and

WHEREAS, the orders directed that employment, procurement, and contracting practices of federal contractors and subcontractors may not consider race or gender and further required every federal contract or award to certify the recipient does not operate any programs promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion which violate any applicable federal anti-discrimination laws; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has been tasked with identifying inefficiencies within the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation and the North Dakota Department of Transportation administer the disadvantaged business enterprise program; and

WHEREAS, the disadvantaged business enterprise program (DBE) is a form of DEI; and

WHEREAS, the DBE program requirements are burdensome and often a deterrent for contractors to bid federally funded projects; the requirements increase contractors' overhead costs, reduce competitive bidding, and prevent general contractors from offering the lowest possible bid, thus wasting taxpayer funds; and

WHEREAS, the increased costs due to the DBE program are not needed, do not add value, and do not serve the taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, government construction contracts should be awarded based on the lowest responsible bid, not based on the color of someone's skin, race, sex, or any other presumption of social disadvantage; and

WHEREAS, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky granted a limited preliminary injunction against the United States Department of Transportation in the case Mid-America Milling Co., LLC v. United States Department

of Transportation and the court found the race and gender-based rebuttable presumptions used in the DBE program violate the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly supports President Trump and his administration's efforts to eliminate DEI policies from the federal government including the DBE program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly encourages the DOGE to take steps to eliminate the DBE program, and all other related DEI programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly encourages the North Dakota Congressional Delegation to work to remove DEI initiatives, policies, and requirements from funding to states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly supports the Governor of North Dakota ending the North Dakota Department of Transportation DBE program as soon as allowed under federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly supports the North Dakota Attorney General taking any available legal action to assist in striking down DBE program requirements and practices in the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation, the President of the United States, the Governor of North Dakota, the Attorney General of North Dakota, and the Administrator of the Department of Government Efficiency.

Filed March 12, 2025

CHAPTER 647

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4024

(Senators Mathern, Hogue, Bekkedahl)
(Representatives Koppelman, Lefor)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying using dedicated funds in the Capitol building fund to build a legislative office building.

WHEREAS, the Capitol building fund was created at statehood through a grant of 50,000 acres of land to the state for the purpose of financing construction of public buildings for legislative, executive, and judicial use and, in 1957, Congress expanded the purpose of the fund to allow the fund to be used for construction, renovation, and other improvements of public buildings at the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, the 1967 Legislative Assembly considered the need to improve legislative committee rooms and provide office space for committee chairmen, legislative study lounges, and Legislative Council offices; and

WHEREAS, the 1967 Legislative Assembly adopted legislation directing the Capitol building fund be dedicated and reserved for the exclusive purpose of the construction of an addition to the legislative wing; and

WHEREAS, since 1967, money in the Capitol building fund has been used for a variety of purposes including the payment of special assessments and the construction and maintenance of the Governor's residence; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the land granted to the state and the assets of the fund continue to contribute to the balance of the Capitol building fund, which is in excess of \$5,000,000, despite appropriations from the fund for other purposes totaling nearly \$13,000,000 over the last 3 bienniums; and

WHEREAS, many legislative meeting rooms are too small to accommodate the public, lack secondary or emergency exits, and are not designed to function with today's technology; and

WHEREAS, the legislative parking lot frequently is in need of repair, and during legislative sessions often is covered with snow and ice causing unsafe conditions; and

WHEREAS, our Capitol is one of the few in the country in which legislators have no dedicated place to work or private space to meet with constituents; and

WHEREAS, long-term Capitol facility plans have explored the option of building a parking structure on the west side of the legislative wing rather than continuing to repair the legislative parking lot; and

WHEREAS, construction of a parking structure also would present an opportunity to include above the parking structure space for modern committee rooms, legislative offices and meeting space, and office space for legislative staff; and

WHEREAS, construction of a legislative office building would allow executive branch agencies that are leasing office space off the Capitol grounds to move into the Capitol, saving money on leased space and providing greater access to the public; and

WHEREAS, as the Capitol approaches its 100th anniversary, it is vital for the Legislative Assembly to address the future needs of the legislative branch and provide future legislators with the tools necessary to retain the Legislative Assembly's constitutional role as a coequal branch of government;

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

That the Legislative Management consider studying using dedicated funds in the Capitol building fund to build a legislative office building; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Management report its finding and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations to the Seventieth Legislative Assembly.

Filed March 21, 2025