

Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Monday, the sixth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4045
(Senator W. Stenehjem)
(Representative Kretschmar)**

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study state funding of the office of clerk of district court, the issues and problems associated with the continued implementation of court unification, and the effective provision of judicial services to the citizens of this state.

WHEREAS, since 1981, the judicial system has evolved through a series of consolidation refinements culminating in 1991 legislation abolishing county courts, establishing a single level trial court system, and requiring the reduction in total number of judges to 42 by January 2, 2001; and

WHEREAS, clerks of district court are an integral part of the court system but their status as elected county officials poses unique and significant issues concerning the effective operation of the courts in providing judicial services; and

WHEREAS, continued implementation of court unification requires substantive review of issues concerning the means of effectively providing judicial services with reduced judicial resources, including the location of judicial services, facility standards for courthouses, continued refinement of venue requirements, and methods of juror selection; and

WHEREAS, complex issues concerning state funding of the office of clerk of district court and continued implementation of court unification and the impact upon counties, the courts, and judicial services provided to North Dakota citizens are most proficiently considered by a body with the reservoir of knowledge about the issues and reflecting the diverse interests, needs, and allegiances of those affected by those issues;

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

That the Legislative Council study state funding of the office of clerk of district court, the issues and problems associated with the continued implementation of court unification, and the effective provision of judicial services to the citizens of this state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council consider including representatives of clerks of court, county commissioners, and judges on the interim committee; 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-sixth Legislative Assembly.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 1997,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State