

Fifty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 3057

Introduced by

Representatives Meyer, Kerzman

Senator Krauter

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the cost effectiveness of the
2 tax offset program of the Department of Human Services' food stamp benefit recovery effort
3 and to study and monitor North Dakota's welfare reform implementation efforts and the
4 effectiveness of welfare reform.

5 **WHEREAS**, the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation
6 Act of 1996 requires states to collect all outstanding claims of overissued food stamp benefits
7 dating back to 1988; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the outstanding amount of overissued benefits in North Dakota is
9 approximately 1.2 million dollars for the 10-year period; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Act requires the collection be made by reducing the food stamp
11 allotment to a household, withholding amounts from unemployment compensation, recovering
12 from federal pay or a federal tax refund, or any other means; and

13 **WHEREAS**, section 844 of the Act provides that the state agency is not required to
14 collect the overissuances if it can demonstrate that the collection is not cost effective; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the overissuances of food stamp benefits were the result of agency error
16 and not recipient fraud; and

17 **WHEREAS**, many of the 3,500 persons who have been contacted by the Department of
18 Human Services for repayment of overissued food stamp benefits are elderly and living on very
19 low incomes; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the collection of the overissued amount from low-income persons will
21 increase the affected persons' need for other forms of public assistance; and

22 **WHEREAS**, during the 1997-98 interim, the Legislative Council studied the monitoring
23 of the implementation of welfare reform in North Dakota; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the interim committee assigned the welfare reform study identified a
25 number of issues that may need continued monitoring by a future interim committee;

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

3 That the Legislative Council study the cost effectiveness of the tax offset program of the
4 Department of Human Services' food stamp benefit recovery effort and to study and monitor
5 North Dakota's welfare reform implementation efforts and the effectiveness of welfare reform;
6 and

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council report its findings and
8 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
9 the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly.