

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4027

Introduced by

Senators Thane, Heitkamp

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the prices for prescription
2 drugs and possible mechanisms to lower those costs to consumers.

3 **WHEREAS**, a study by the Center for Studying Health System Change reports that
4 prescription drugs are responsible for 44 percent of the increase in health care costs; and

5 **WHEREAS**, escalating prescription drug prices is an especially important issue to
6 seniors because studies indicate the cost of the top 50 drugs used by elderly citizens in this
7 country has been increasing at a rate that has outpaced inflation nearly two to one; and

8 **WHEREAS**, escalating prescription drug prices is an especially important issue to rural
9 residents because rural residents typically have lower incomes, limited access to pharmacies,
10 and pay more for prescription drugs than their urban counterparts; and

11 **WHEREAS**, studies indicate that inadequate access to affordable prescription drugs
12 results in increased medical expenses such as increased emergency mental health services
13 and increased nursing home admissions; and

14 **WHEREAS**, several states have initiated programs to address the affordability of
15 prescription drugs, including Maine's Maine Rx program and Indiana's HoosierRx; and

16 **WHEREAS**, several states have introduced legislation to address the issue of
17 affordability of prescription drugs, including Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, and Ohio;

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

20 That the Legislative Council study the prices for prescription drugs and possible
21 mechanisms to lower those costs to consumers; and

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council report its findings and
23 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
24 the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly.