

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3044

Introduced by

Representatives Sandvig, Carlson, B. Thoreson

Senators Krauter, T. Mathern, O'Connell

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the feasibility and desirability
2 of establishing a putative fathers' adoption registry.

3 **WHEREAS**, a "putative father" is a man who may be a child's father, but who was not
4 married to the child's mother before the child was born and has not established the fact that he
5 is the father in a court proceeding;

6 **WHEREAS**, in most cases, North Dakota law requires that both parents give consent to
7 an adoption; and

8 **WHEREAS**, a putative fathers' adoption registry could serve to protect the legal rights of
9 the father as well as simplify the process for families that want to adopt and for adoption social
10 workers and other professionals who must make sure that a child is "legally free" for adoption;
11 and

12 **WHEREAS**, a number of states, including Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois,
13 Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, and New
14 Mexico have enacted legislation to create a putative fathers' adoption registry;

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

17 That the Legislative Council study the feasibility and desirability of establishing a
18 putative fathers' adoption registry; and

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