

Introduced by

Representatives Svedjan, R. Kelsch, Porter, Price

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the impact of fathers not being
2 involved in their children's lives and identify potential programs and funding sources to address
3 this situation.

4 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota does not have sufficient information regarding the etiology of
5 fathers not being involved in their children's lives; and

6 **WHEREAS**, nearly one-third of the nation's children live in single-parent households;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, research underscores the importance of fathers in child development; and

9 **WHEREAS**, children with involved fathers are less likely to become teen parents, less
10 likely to be involved with the juvenile justice system, and more likely to perform well in school;
11 and

12 **WHEREAS**, many low-income fathers were raised in families without an involved father
13 and therefore lack examples of involved fatherhood; and

14 **WHEREAS**, many low-income fathers face many of the same barriers to self-sufficiency
15 faced by low-income mothers; and

16 **WHEREAS**, states have unprecedented opportunities to address issues regarding
17 fathers and fatherhood, including use of the temporary assistance to needy families block grant;

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

20 That the Legislative Council study the number of children who have fathers not involved
21 in their lives and the reasons for this; and study the impact of fathers not being involved in their
22 children's lives and identify potential programs and funding sources to address this situation,
23 including receipt and review of the Fatherhood Initiative of the United States Department of
24 Health and Human Services; and

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