

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Health Services Committee)

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to continue to study medicolegal
2 death investigation in the state and how current best practices, including authorization,
3 reporting, training, certification, and the use of information technology and toxicology, can
4 improve death investigation systems in the state.

5 **WHEREAS**, the 2013-14 interim Health Services Committee studied funding provided by
6 the state for autopsies and state and county responsibility for the cost of autopsies, including
7 the feasibility and desirability of counties sharing in the cost of autopsies; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the number of forensic autopsies performed in North Dakota has been steadily
9 increasing; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in addition to criminal justice, death investigation plays a role in public and
11 population health; and

12 **WHEREAS**, medicolegal death investigation is complicated by distance and an inadequate
13 supply of medical professionals in rural areas of the state; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the National Association of Medical Examiners provides consultation services
15 to states developing systems for death investigation; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the 2013-14 interim Health Services Committee determined additional
17 information was needed regarding recommended improvements to the medicolegal death
18 investigation system in the state;

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

21 That the Legislative Management continue to study medicolegal death investigation in the
22 state and how current best practices, including authorization, reporting, training, certification,
23 and the use of information technology and toxicology, can improve death investigation systems
24 in the state; and

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