

Introduced by

Senators Mathern, Dever, Armstrong

Representatives Steiner, Mooney, J. Nelson

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to study the impact to North  
2 Dakotans of the marriage penalty within the supplementary security income program under the  
3 Social Security Act and encouraging the North Dakota Congressional Delegation to address this  
4 issue within the Social Security laws.

5 **WHEREAS**, supplementary security income rescues over 7,650 low-income people with  
6 disabilities in North Dakota from poverty; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the income of a recipient's spouse is considered in calculating the benefits for  
8 the recipient, and benefits for a married couple, both of whom receive supplementary security  
9 income benefits and have no other income, are 25 percent less than the total they would  
10 receive if they were living together but not as husband and wife, which provides a financial  
11 incentive for some people with disabilities to forego marriage; and

12 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota supports family values and the sanctity of marriage and  
13 examination should be made of the impact of the marriage penalty within the supplementary  
14 security income program, the number of residents affected, the impact on housing affordability,  
15 ability of married recipients to meet the cost of basic needs for North Dakota residents,  
16 assessing whether married recipients are held below the poverty level in North Dakota, and  
17 policies in states that subsidize supplementary security income for their residents;

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

20 That the Legislative Management study the impact to North Dakotans of the marriage  
21 penalty within the supplementary security income program under the Social Security Act; and

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Legislative Management report its findings and  
23 recommendations, together with any legislation to implement the recommendations, to the  
24 Sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly; and

- 1        **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution
- 2 to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation and that the Sixty-fourth
- 3 Legislative Assembly encourages them to address this issue within the Social Security laws.