

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3020

Introduced by

Representatives Devlin, Hofstad, D. Johnson, Vigesaa

Senators Heckaman, Oehlke

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to study the impact on owners of
2 land that has been inundated by rising waters in Devils Lake and Stump Lake.

3 **WHEREAS**, Devils Lake and Stump Lake have inundated land once owned by landowners
4 surrounding the lakes; and

5 **WHEREAS**, as the navigable waters increased the inundated land became sovereign land
6 of the state, which deprives the previous owner of the ownership and use of the land; and

7 **WHEREAS**, landowners with land taken by the rising lakes want to ensure that when the
8 lakes recede the land returns to the landowners; and

9 **WHEREAS**, some landowners have paid property taxes on inundated land for many years
10 in the hope of regaining ownership when the water recedes and some have been required to do
11 so because the surface area of land used for the assessment determination for property tax
12 application does not take into account the current and exact boundary of the lake; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the surrounding landowners have suffered extreme hardship from loss of use
14 and ownership of their land and the added burden of paying property taxes on it, but have not
15 received any compensation from the state or federal government;

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

18 That the Legislative Management study the impact on owners of land that has been
19 inundated by rising waters in Devils Lake and Stump Lake; and

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