

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4006

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~~supplemental security income
3 program and the impact of the marriage penalty on retirement benefits under the Social Security
4 Act and encouraging the North Dakota Congressional Delegation to address ~~this issue~~the
5 impact within the Social Security laws.

6 **WHEREAS**, ~~supplementary~~supplemental security income rescues from poverty over 7,650
7 low-income ~~people~~individuals with disabilities in ~~North Dakota from poverty~~this state; and

8 WHEREAS, many older residents depend on social security benefits for retirement income;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, the income of a recipient's spouse is considered in calculating the benefits for
11 ~~the~~a recipient; and

12 WHEREAS, benefits for a married couple, both of whom receive
13 ~~supplementary~~supplemental security income ~~benefits~~ and have no other income, are 25 percent
14 less than the total they would receive if they were living together but not as husband and wife
15 ~~which provides;~~ and

16 WHEREAS, social security benefits may be reduced for married couples; and

17 WHEREAS, such circumstances provide a financial incentive for some ~~people~~retired
18 individuals and individuals with disabilities to forgo marriage; and

19 **WHEREAS**, ~~North Dakota~~this state supports family values and the sanctity of marriage; and

20 WHEREAS, an examination should be made of the impact ~~of that~~ the marriage penalty has
21 within the ~~supplementary~~supplemental security income program and the social security
22 program; the number of residents affected; by the marriage penalty; the impact of the marriage
23 penalty on housing affordability; the ability of married recipients in this state to meet ~~the cost~~
24 ~~of their~~ basic needs ~~for North Dakota residents, assessing;~~ whether the marriage penalty holds
25 married recipients ~~are held~~ below the poverty level in ~~North Dakota,~~this state; and ~~policies in-~~

1 ~~states that subsidize supplementary security income for their residents~~the manner in which
2 other states address the impact of the marriage penalty;

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

5 That the Legislative Management study the impact ~~to North Dakotans~~ of the marriage
6 penalty within the ~~supplementary~~supplemental security income program and the impact of the
7 marriage penalty on retirement benefits under the Social Security Act; and

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

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