

Introduced by

Representatives Ista, Klemin, O'Brien, Roers Jones, Schneider

Senators Barta, Cleary, Dwyer, Meyer

1 A concurrent resolution encouraging the judicial branch to consider forming a task force to study  
2 the retention of University of North Dakota law graduates in the state, including an evaluation of  
3 alternative pathways to bar admission that ensure attorney competence.

4 **WHEREAS**, the state is experiencing a shortage of attorneys, particularly in rural areas,  
5 and solutions are being explored to alleviate the attorney shortage; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the University of North Dakota School of Law is the only institution in the state  
7 that grants the degree of juris doctor; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the majority of attorneys licensed to practice law in North Dakota are graduates  
9 of the University of North Dakota School of Law; and

10 **WHEREAS**, any requirements for admission to the bar as a licensed attorney in the state of  
11 North Dakota must ensure that all licensed attorneys are highly competent to practice law in this  
12 state; and

13 **WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of North Dakota to evaluate available alternative  
14 methods for assessing the competency of applicants for licensure as attorneys in the state and  
15 determine whether alternative assessments would provide an incentive for more University of  
16 North Dakota School of Law graduates to practice in North Dakota while not compromising the  
17 quality of attorneys in the state;

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

20 That the judicial branch is encouraged to consider forming a task force to study the  
21 retention of University of North Dakota law graduates in the state, including an evaluation of  
22 alternative pathways to bar admission that ensure attorney competence; and

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the task force may include representatives from the:

- 24 1. Judicial branch;  
25 2. State Board of Law Examiners;

1       3.   Legislative branch;

2       4.   University of North Dakota School of Law; and

3       5.   State Bar Association of North Dakota; and

4       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the judicial branch is encouraged to report any findings  
5 and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the  
6 recommendations, to the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly; and

7       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution  
8 to the Chief Justice of the North Dakota Supreme Court, the Clerk of Court for the North Dakota  
9 Supreme Court, the President of the State Board of Law Examiners, the Dean of the University  
10 of North Dakota School of Law, and the President of the State Bar Association of North Dakota.