

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4004

Introduced by

Legislative Council

(Budget Committee on Long-Term Care)

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the possibility of creating an
2 incentive package to assist rural communities and nursing facilities in closing or significantly
3 reducing bed capacity and providing alternative long-term care services.

4 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota has 75.05 nursing facility beds per 1,000 elderly (age 65 and
5 over) while the national average is fewer than 50; and

6 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota institutionalizes about 10.3 percent of its elderly population,
7 the highest percentage in the United States; and

8 **WHEREAS**, there were 7,031 nursing facility beds available during 1996, of which 6,748
9 or 95.97 percent were occupied and 1,275 basic care beds available during the three-month
10 period beginning January 1997 and ending March 1997, of which 1,061 or 83.22 percent were
11 occupied; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Medicaid recipients occupied 56.59 percent of the nursing facility beds
13 during 1996 and basic care assistance recipients occupied 64 percent of the basic care beds
14 during the three-month period beginning January 1997 and ending March 1997; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the closure of a facility in a rural community can have a significant effect on
16 the entire community similar to the loss of other local businesses, schools, hospitals, or
17 churches; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the Task Force on Long-Term Care Planning recognizes that assistance
19 may be needed for communities when a facility chooses to close or reduce bed capacity; and

20 **WHEREAS**, facilities in rural communities which are experiencing decreased occupancy
21 and staffing problems usually do not have the necessary resources to develop alternatives to
22 institutional care; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the Task Force on Long-Term Care Planning concluded that incentives and
24 other forms of assistance should be made available to enable facilities to make the transition
25 toward closing or to providing institutional services to fewer residents; and

1 **WHEREAS**, incentives could range from a flat payment for each bed delicensed to
2 grants and subsidized loans for developing alternative services and involve the resources and
3 expertise from state agencies, including the State Department of Health, Department of Human
4 Services, Bank of North Dakota, Municipal Bond Bank, and the Department of Economic
5 Development and Finance;

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

8 That the Legislative Council study the possibility of creating an incentive package to
9 assist rural communities and nursing facilities in closing or significantly reducing bed capacity
10 and providing alternative long-term care services; and

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council report its findings and
12 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
13 the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly.