

Introduced by

Legislative Council

(Child Support Committee)

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the feasibility and desirability
2 of facilitating pro se representation in domestic relations matters.

3 **WHEREAS**, more than one-half of all actions filed in district courts involve domestic
4 relations cases, including child support order modification proceedings and visitation
5 enforcement proceedings; and

6 **WHEREAS**, legal expenses associated with even the most basic of child support
7 modification proceedings and visitation enforcement proceedings make these proceedings
8 cost-prohibitive for most people; and

9 **WHEREAS**, many low-income persons must rely on legal aid offices, child support
10 enforcement units, or attorneys willing to do pro bono domestic relations cases for legal
11 services; and

12 **WHEREAS**, legal aid offices, child support enforcement units, and pro bono attorneys
13 have limited resources to assist persons in domestic relations matters; and

14 **WHEREAS**, there is a presumption that application of the child support guidelines
15 results in the proper amount of child support, and it is usually in a child's best interests to have
16 a relationship with both parents; and

17 **WHEREAS**, lack of ability to pay for legal services may result in persons failing to seek
18 modification of child support orders and enforcement of visitation;

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

21 That the Legislative Council study the feasibility and desirability of facilitating pro se
22 representation in domestic relations matters; and

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