

Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Tuesday, the fifth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3005
(Legislative Council)
(Child Support Committee)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 1999,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State