

Introduced by

Representatives Stefonowicz, Nelson, Schmidt, Severson, Solberg

Senator Solberg

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council study the challenges facing the  
2 delivery of health care in this state, including the concerns relating to reimbursement of  
3 hospitals for medical services, technological innovation, and possible regionalization of  
4 services.

5 **WHEREAS**, the delivery of health care is necessary for the health, safety, and welfare  
6 of all residents of this state; and

7 **WHEREAS**, changing demographics indicate the average age of a rural resident of this  
8 state is aging and the rural population is decreasing; and

9 **WHEREAS**, managed care is changing the manner of providing health care services in  
10 rural portions of this state; and

11 **WHEREAS**, shifting populations may cause regionalization of provisions of hospital  
12 services; and

13 **WHEREAS**, technological innovations such as telemedicine will affect the delivery of  
14 rural health care; and

15 **WHEREAS**, hospitals in this state are reimbursed for medical services by a variety of  
16 sources, including individuals, private insurers, Medicaid, Medicare, Indian Health Services,  
17 TRICARE, and Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Veterans Administration; and

18 **WHEREAS**, rural hospitals are facing financial hardship in part because of low  
19 reimbursement rates for medical services; and

20 **WHEREAS**, changes in the Medicare reimbursement rate schedule, a benchmark for  
21 health care insurers in setting reimbursement rate schedules, may negatively impact rural  
22 hospital reimbursement rates for medical services;

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

1           That the Legislative Council study the challenges facing the delivery of health care in  
2 this state, including the concerns relating to reimbursement of hospitals for medical services,  
3 technological innovations, and possible regionalization of services; and

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