

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4015

Introduced by

Senators Nething, B. Stenehjem

Representative Carlisle

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the adult correctional system
2 in North Dakota, including its functions, responsibilities, funding, and operation, and the causes
3 of past and projected future increases in the state's adult inmate population, including the
4 impact of sentencing laws.

5 **WHEREAS**, the Legislative Council has not conducted a comprehensive study of the
6 functions, responsibilities, funding, and operation of the state's adult correctional system since
7 the 1977-78 interim; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the Legislative Council has not conducted a comprehensive study of adult
9 correctional facility needs since the 1979-80 interim; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the prison population in North Dakota has increased by over 60 percent
11 from 1993 to 1998; and

12 **WHEREAS**, state general fund appropriations to the Department of Corrections and
13 Rehabilitation have increased by over 50 percent from the 1993-95 biennium to the 1997-99
14 biennium; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the number of adult drug offenders incarcerated in North Dakota has
16 increased by over 460 percent from 1993 to 1998; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Legislative Assembly has enacted numerous changes to sentencing
18 laws in North Dakota since 1993; and

19 **WHEREAS**, treatment and other programs that provide alternatives to incarceration
20 may reduce the number of inmates and reduce recidivism;

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

23 That the Legislative Council study the adult correctional system in North Dakota,
24 including its functions, responsibilities, funding, and operation, and the causes of past and

Fifty-sixth
Legislative Assembly

- 1 projected future increases in the state's adult inmate population, including the impact of
- 2 sentencing laws; and
- 3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council report its findings and
- 4 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
- 5 the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly.