

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4032
(Senators W. Stenehjem, T. Mathern, G. Nelson)
(Representatives Boucher, Dorso)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the family law process in North Dakota with a focus on a review of existing statutes, the coordination of procedures, and the further implementation of alternative dispute resolution methods.

WHEREAS, more than half of all civil actions filed in district courts involve domestic relations cases, including divorce, separation, adult abuse, custody proceedings, support actions, adoptions, and paternity proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the existing judicial system provides for an adversarial proceeding for domestic relations cases which often compounds the negative impact of family dissolutions; and

WHEREAS, constituents have expressed broad-based concerns regarding the existing family law system; and

WHEREAS, the statutes governing domestic relations are in need of updating and coordination; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Family Law Task Force of the State Bar Association has considerable expertise and knowledge of court procedures and alternative systems in North Dakota and in other jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Family Law Task Force of the State Bar Association has offered its assistance in conducting the study;

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

That the Legislative Council study the family law process in North Dakota with a focus on a review of existing statutes, the coordination of procedures, and the further implementation of alternative dispute resolution methods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in conducting the study, the Legislative Council consider conducting meetings with the Joint Family Law Task Force of the State Bar Association; 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.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

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

Secretary of State