

**FIRST ENGROSSMENT
with Senate Amendments**

**ENGROSSED HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 3057**

Introduced by

Representatives Meyer, Kerzman

Senator Krauter

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress and the Secretary of Agriculture to reevaluate the
2 feasibility, desirability, and cost effectiveness of requiring states to collect certain outstanding
3 claims of overissued food stamp benefits.

4 **WHEREAS**, the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation
5 Act of 1996 requires states to collect all outstanding claims of overissued food stamp benefits
6 dating back to 1988; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the outstanding amount of overissued benefits in North Dakota is
8 approximately 1.2 million dollars for the 10-year period; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Act requires the collection be made by reducing the food stamp
10 allotment to a household, withholding amounts from unemployment compensation, recovering
11 from federal pay or a federal tax refund, or any other means; and

12 **WHEREAS**, section 844 of the Act provides that the state agency is not required to
13 collect the overissuances if it can demonstrate that the collection is not cost effective; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the overissuances of food stamp benefits were the result of agency error
15 and not recipient fraud; and

16 **WHEREAS**, many of the 3,500 persons who have been contacted by the Department of
17 Human Services for repayment of overissued food stamp benefits are elderly and living on very
18 low incomes; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the collection of the overissued amount from low-income persons will
20 increase the affected persons' need for other forms of public assistance;

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

23 That the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States and
24 the Secretary of Agriculture to reevaluate the feasibility, desirability, and cost effectiveness of
25 requiring states to collect certain outstanding claims of overissued food stamp benefits; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
2 resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Agriculture, the chairmen of
3 the Senate and House Agriculture Committees, and to each member of the North Dakota
4 Congressional Delegation.