

**Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 9, 2001**

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3054  
(Representatives Devlin, Price, Severson, Weisz)  
(Senators Fischer, Lee)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the impact on domestic relations law of using the term "parental responsibility" in lieu of "custody" and "parenting time" in lieu of "visitation".

**WHEREAS**, more than half of all civil actions filed in district courts involve domestic relations cases, including divorce, separation, 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**, state law provides that a mother and father have equal rights with regard to the care, custody, education, and control of the children of the marriage; and

**WHEREAS**, the concept of mutual parental responsibility should be encouraged; and

**WHEREAS**, typically, the most acrimonious portion of a divorce proceeding involves the custody and visitation issues; and

**WHEREAS**, as used in domestic relations law, the terms "custody" and "visitation" have the effect of alienating parties;

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

That the Legislative Council study the impact on domestic relations law of using the term "parental responsibility" in lieu of "custody" and "parenting time" in lieu of "visitation"; 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-eighth Legislative Assembly.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

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President of the Senate

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Chief Clerk of the House

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Secretary of the Senate

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2001,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State