

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3047

Introduced by

Representatives Metcalf, Damschen, Mueller, Pollert, Uglen

Senator Lyson

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study sentencing alternatives with an
2 emphasis on the expanded use of rehabilitation over incarceration, the provision of more
3 treatment options, and the adequate funding of treatment programs.

4 **WHEREAS**, during the 2001-03 biennium, the state's inmate population increased
5 9.5 percent and reached an all-time high of 1,299 inmates in September 2004; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in 2001 drug crimes surpassed property crimes as the largest category of
7 crimes for which offenders were incarcerated in the state's corrections system; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the increasing use and manufacture of methamphetamine by state
9 residents has resulted in drug offenders being the fastest-growing segment of the state's inmate
10 population for the third straight biennium; and

11 **WHEREAS**, recent developments in criminal justice indicate the emergence of a
12 national movement in favor of treating, rather than incarcerating, nonviolent drug possession
13 offenders; and

14 **WHEREAS**, these developments include drug courts, local policies that favor treatment,
15 and statewide initiatives that divert nonviolent drug offenders to treatment instead of
16 incarceration;

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

19 That the Legislative Council study sentencing alternatives with an emphasis on the
20 expanded use of rehabilitation over incarceration, the provision of more treatment options, and
21 the adequate funding of treatment programs; and

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council report its findings and
23 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
24 the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly.