

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4013

Introduced by

Senators Dotzenrod, Kannianen, Klein, Vedaa

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to considering studying the
2 distribution and transportation of food in the state necessary to the lives of individuals in rural
3 communities, and the roles of state entities in facilitating the movement of food to rural areas of
4 the state.

5 **WHEREAS**, since 2013, North Dakota has lost 15 percent of its grocery stores in towns
6 with populations of fewer than 2,100 people; and

7 **WHEREAS**, small profit margins in the grocery store business make it difficult for store
8 owners to keep up with building and infrastructure needs; and

9 **WHEREAS**, a considerable number of the state's population drive more than 10 miles to
10 reach a grocery store that offers fresh milk, bread, meat, fruits, and vegetables; and

11 **WHEREAS**, there is a strong negative correlation between the distance people drive for
12 food and those people's health; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the North Dakota Rural Grocery Initiative task force is studying the financial
14 feasibility of collaborative purchasing, aggregation, and public-private partnerships to make the
15 best use of existing infrastructure to improve the access, affordability, and variety of food in rural
16 locations in the state; and

17 **WHEREAS**, it is imperative the state examines the law regarding the regulation, inspection,
18 and health requirements that restrict some foods to limited distribution channels;

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

21 That the Legislative Management consider studying the distribution and transportation of
22 food in the state necessary to the lives of individuals in rural communities, and the roles of state
23 entities in facilitating the movement of food to rural areas of the state; and

- 1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Management report its findings and
- 2 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
- 3 the Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly.