

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3022

Introduced by

Representatives Davis, Dakane, Dobervich, Fegley, Finley-DeVillie, Henderson, Holle,
Nelson, Schreiber-Beck

Senators Mathern, Weston

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying and clarifying
2 the roles of the State Board of Public School Education, the Superintendent of Public
3 Instruction, the boards of public school districts, and the North Dakota High School Activities
4 Association, as they relate to proper spectator conduct, including the clarification of
5 expectations and consequences for violating those expectations, and the promotion of good
6 sportsmanship and good citizenship, including embracing diversity.

7 **WHEREAS**, unsportsmanlike conduct at high school activities includes racial discrimination
8 and harassment directed at players by spectators, including behavior among rival spectator
9 groups which can escalate into disruptions and violence in the stands; and

10 **WHEREAS**, countless instances of racial harassment and race-based name calling during
11 high school sporting events have occurred, and continue to occur, whether subtle or flagrant;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, recently, student spectators from a North Dakota high school verbally taunted
14 and physically mocked student athletes from a tribal high school located in North Dakota; and

15 **WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2023, student spectators from a North Dakota high school
16 taunted a student athlete of color from another North Dakota high school by imitating monkey
17 sounds and directing racial slurs at the player during a basketball game; and

18 **WHEREAS**, public outcry and media coverage is prevalent, yet consequences for
19 harassment are unclear; and

20 **WHEREAS**, ~~student athletes of color~~ all student athletes deserve protection from
21 discriminatory and racist behaviors; and

22 **WHEREAS**, student spectators engaging in unsportsmanlike conduct, including racist
23 conduct, and the schools those students represent deserve to be held accountable for
24 inappropriate behavior;

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

3 That the Legislative Management consider studying and clarifying the roles of the State
4 Board of Public School Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the boards of public
5 school districts, and the North Dakota High School Activities Association, as they relate to
6 proper spectator conduct, including the clarification of expectations and consequences for
7 violating those expectations, and the promotion of good sportsmanship and good citizenship,
8 including embracing diversity; and

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Management may receive input from a
10 task force which may include:

11 1. One member of the State Board of Public School Education;

12 2. The Superintendent of Public Instruction or the Superintendent's designee;

13 3. Three members of the boards of public school districts appointed by the North Dakota
14 School Boards Association;

15 4. The President of the North Dakota High School Activities Association or the
16 President's designee;

17 5. One representative from each of the four tribes that have schools located in North
18 Dakota, appointed by each Tribal Chair; and

19 6. One parent appointed by the Indian Education Director of Bismarck Public Schools;
20 and

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Management report its findings and
22 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
23 the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly.