

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

CHAPTER 585

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3001

(Legislative Council)

(Budget Section)

BLOCK GRANT HEARINGS

A concurrent resolution authorizing the Budget Section of the Legislative Council to hold the required legislative hearings on state plans for the receipt and expenditure of new or revised block grants passed by Congress.

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States enacted the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 creating the community services block grant program; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Assembly is required to conduct public hearings; and

WHEREAS, the Appropriations Committees have met the public hearing requirement for community services block grant moneys expected for the next biennium by the Department of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly cannot hold public hearings on revisions to current block grants or additional block grants that may be approved by Congress after the recess or adjournment of the Legislative Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Assembly will not meet in regular session during 2008 and thus its public hearing responsibility for grants not approved by the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly must be delegated to a legislative entity;

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

That the Department of Commerce appropriation bill enacted by the Legislative Assembly is the Legislative Assembly's approval of and contains directions regarding the use of community services block grant moneys for the period ending September 30, 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Budget Section of the Legislative Council may hold the public legislative hearings required for the receipt of additional block grants or other federal moneys under the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 or other relevant federal statutes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the authority granted by this resolution is in effect during the period from the recess or adjournment of the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly through September 30, 2009, and the Budget Section may provide public notice and hold the hearings authorized by this resolution using the methods and procedures it deems appropriate.

Filed March 5, 2007

CHAPTER 586**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3002**

(Legislative Council)
(Judicial Process Committee)

JUDICIAL ELECTION AND SELECTION STUDY

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the judicial election and judicial selection process in North Dakota.

WHEREAS, district judges and Supreme Court justices in North Dakota are elected on a no-party ballot; and

WHEREAS, several federal cases have been decided recently which could have a dramatic impact on judicial selection methods in North Dakota and throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, the 2005-06 interim Judicial Process Committee in cooperation with a State Bar Association of North Dakota task force studied the judicial election and selection process in North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the 2005-06 interim Judicial Process Committee and the State Bar Association of North Dakota task force recommended that no immediate legislative changes are necessary as a result of the recent federal cases involving judicial election and selection; and

WHEREAS, the methodology of judicial selection in North Dakota is a complex issue that requires additional study; and

WHEREAS, the 2005-06 interim Judicial Process Committee recommended that the study of the judicial election and selection process continue into the 2007-08 interim;

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

That the Legislative Council study the judicial election and judicial selection process in North Dakota; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council pursue a public information and education program with the State Bar Association of North Dakota which includes public forums around the state regarding judicial selection methodology and the conduct of judicial elections; 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 Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.

Filed March 21, 2007

CHAPTER 587**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3003**

(Representatives Hanson, Kroeber)
(Senator Nething)

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBERED

A concurrent resolution proclaiming April 24 as a day of remembrance of the Armenian genocide.

WHEREAS, 1,500,000 men, women, and children of Armenian descent were victims of the genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire in 1915 and thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., stated, "Whatever crimes the most perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, and whatever refinement of persecutions and injustice the most debased imagination can conceive, became the daily misfortunes of these 'devoted people.'"; and

WHEREAS, the killing of the Armenian people was accomplished by the systematic destruction of churches, schools, libraries, treasures of art, and cultural monuments in an attempt to eliminate all traces of a noble civilization with a history of more than 3,000 years; and

WHEREAS, the Armenian genocide has been acknowledged by several countries and international bodies; and

WHEREAS, each year Armenians throughout the world honor those who perished from 1915 to 1923, and all the world's people should commemorate the Armenian genocide because it stands as an ugly testament to man's inhumanity to man; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to raise awareness about the Armenian genocide not only because it is an undeniable chapter of world history, but also because learning more about this unconscionable tragedy will help better understand the necessity of eliminating hatred from our own communities;

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

That April 24 is proclaimed as a day of remembrance of the Armenian genocide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the chairman of the Armenian Community of North Dakota, the Armenian Assembly of America, the Armenian National Committee, each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation, and the President of the United States.

Filed April 5, 2007

CHAPTER 588**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3005**

(Representatives Froelich, Brandenburg, Kerzman, Kretschmar)
(Senators Erbele, Krauter)

AGRICULTURAL DISASTER RELIEF URGED

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to pass an agricultural disaster relief package.

WHEREAS, weather-related disasters devastated United States agriculture in 2005 and 2006; and

WHEREAS, during 2005, over 1,000,000 acres could not be planted because of weather-related disasters, hundreds of thousands of acres that were planted were lost because of excessive rainfall, 78 percent of all counties were declared by the United States Department of Agriculture to be primary or contiguous disaster areas, and there has been no disaster assistance for those who lost all or a large part of their 2005 farm income; and

WHEREAS, 2006 was declared by United States Department of Agriculture meteorologists to be one of the worst droughts in the nation's history, preceded only by the dust bowl of the 1930s and the prolonged drought of the 1950s; and

WHEREAS, during 2006, 71 percent of all counties were declared by the United States Department of Agriculture to be primary or contiguous disaster areas and south central North Dakota was at the epicenter of this devastation; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture drought data suggests that 2006 disaster assistance needs will be in the \$3 billion to \$4 billion range; and

WHEREAS, the economic pain that results from weather-related disasters does not end at the farm gate but permeates every storefront of every main street in every community in rural areas affected by weather-related disasters and must be addressed through the immediate passage of an agricultural disaster relief package; and

WHEREAS, the very practical and immediate needs of agricultural producers and rural communities should not be ignored and must be addressed before irreparable economic harm comes to tens of thousands of agricultural producers, their families, and main street businesses;

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

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to recognize that the weather-related disasters of 2005 and 2006 have caused economic devastation on the farms, the ranches, and the main streets of rural America and to take all steps necessary and proper to pass an agricultural disaster relief package that will provide prompt economic assistance to agricultural

producers and to those whose livelihoods are dependent on the well-being of the agricultural sector; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, the members of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, the members of the House Committee on Agriculture, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Filed March 2, 2007

CHAPTER 589**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3007**

(Representatives Froelich, Kempenich, Kerzman, S. Meyer)

BEEF CHECKOFF REFERENDUM URGED

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to require a nationwide referendum of beef producers before allowing an increase in the beef checkoff rate.

WHEREAS, the beef checkoff program, which was established as part of the Food Security Act of 1985, assesses \$1 per head on the sale of live domestic and imported cattle, in addition to a comparable assessment on imported beef and beef products; and

WHEREAS, the assessment became mandatory when the program was approved by 79 percent of producers in a 1988 national referendum; and

WHEREAS, the beef checkoff program is designed to build demand for beef and veal in both domestic and foreign markets through research, promotion, and the dissemination of both consumer and industry information; and

WHEREAS, a recent review of the beef checkoff program by an industrywide task force resulted in a recommendation that the continuation of strong demand-building initiatives requires an increase in the checkoff rate to \$2, an opportunity to petition for a referendum, and making the checkoff more inclusive;

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

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to ensure that if the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985 is amended, thereby permitting an increase in the beef checkoff rate, the increase be predicated upon a successful nationwide referendum of beef producers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Filed March 20, 2007

CHAPTER 590**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3008**

(Representatives Klemin, DeKrey, Delmore)
(Senators Fischer, J. Lee, Nething)

CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION STUDY

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the issues of fairness, equity, and the best interests of children as they relate to issues of child custody and visitation.

WHEREAS, more than one-half of all actions filed in district court involve issues related to family law, including divorce, custody, and visitation; and

WHEREAS, every child who is the subject of a custody or visitation issue has the right to a determination that fosters the best interests of the child, including the child's right to a secure environment and to the guidance, nurture, and emotional, physical, and financial support of both parents; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota law provides that for the purposes of determining custody and visitation, there is no presumption as to which parent will better promote the best interests of the child; and

WHEREAS, concerns have been expressed regarding child custody orders and the enforcement of visitation orders;

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

That the Legislative Council study the issues of fairness, equity, and the best interests of children as they relate to issues of child custody and 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 Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.

Filed March 21, 2007

CHAPTER 591

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3010

(Representatives Froelich, Brandenburg, Kempenich, Kerzman)
(Senators Bowman, Taylor)

MEAT COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING URGED

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to implement country of origin labeling for all meat and poultry products.

WHEREAS, the 2002 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act mandated country of origin labeling at the retail level for seafood, beef, veal, pork, lamb, fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables, and peanuts; and

WHEREAS, Congress delayed implementation of significant portions of the law until 2008, largely as a result of efforts by the meat packing industry, processors, and retailers; and

WHEREAS, American meat often is sold in grocery stores and restaurants with no distinguishing labels or origin information; and

WHEREAS, American consumers consistently have supported country of origin labeling for meat originating in the United States; and

WHEREAS, country of origin labeling would allow informed consumers to exercise their preferences for American meat and would allow producers to identify proudly the result of their efforts as products of the United States; and

WHEREAS, country of origin labeling would preserve confidence in our food system by increasing the ability of consumers to identify the source of their foods and to make selections based on that identification;

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

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to first ensure that proposed rules governing implementation of country of origin labeling adequately address cattle industry concerns and then implement mandatory country of origin labeling for all meat and poultry products; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, the members of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, the members of the House Committee on Agriculture, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Filed April 16, 2007

CHAPTER 592**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3012**

(Representatives Owens, Dietrich, Grande)
(Senator Bakke)

EDUCATION COST STUDY

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the determination of the cost of elementary and secondary education.

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Public Instruction is statutorily charged with determining the cost of elementary and secondary education; and

WHEREAS, in determining the cost of elementary and secondary education, state law provides that the Superintendent of Public Instruction is to consider all costs except capital outlays for buildings, sites, and debt service and expenditures for school activities, lunch programs, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, the school districts of this state vary considerably with respect to their size, with respect to the educational opportunities that they make available to their students, and with respect to their efficiencies; and

WHEREAS, the equitable distribution of state funds to school districts for elementary and secondary education requires a common understanding of what constitutes the cost of that education;

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

That the Legislative Council study the determination of the cost of elementary and secondary education, and the determination of the cost of delivering only that education required by state law, assuming a student-teacher ratio of 20 to 1 and excluding all extracurricular activities; 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 Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.

Filed March 21, 2007

CHAPTER 593**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3013**

(Representatives DeKrey, Dahl, Delmore)
(Senators Fiebiger, Hacker, Nelson)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTION ORDER STUDY

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study statutes and institutional resources relating to the domestic violence protection order process, including criminal cases for alleged violation of protection orders.

WHEREAS, a recent study conducted by a Supreme Court advisory group revealed significant questions about whether current statutes governing the domestic violence protection order process adequately fulfill their intended purpose; and

WHEREAS, there are concerns that imbalances exist in institutional and other resources available to parties to the protection order process to the extent that an equitable resolution of issues may be compromised; and

WHEREAS, the manner in which services are provided to parties to a domestic violence protection order proceeding has not been the subject of recent study to determine whether current statutes are adequately implemented; and

WHEREAS, issues concerning the civil protection order process also extend to statutes and processes governing criminal cases for alleged violation of protection orders;

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

That the Legislative Council study statutes and institutional resources relating to the domestic violence protection order process, including criminal cases for alleged violation of protection orders; 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 Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.

Filed March 21, 2007

CHAPTER 594**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3014**

(Representatives Weiler, Berg, Boucher)
(Senators O'Connell, Stenehjem)

NORTH DAKOTA CLOSE UP DAY

A concurrent resolution declaring Monday, February 12, 2007, "North Dakota Close Up Day".

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Close Up program is designed to ignite interest in the democratic process and instill in young people the desire to become active participants in their government; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Close Up program concentrates on the functions and structures of state government and defines constitutional responsibilities assigned to each of the three branches of government; and

WHEREAS, the focus of the 2007 North Dakota Close Up program is the legislative branch of government; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Close Up program has been in existence nearly two decades; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that nearly 225 North Dakota high school students will participate in the 2007 North Dakota Close Up program;

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

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly declares Monday, February 12, 2007, "North Dakota Close Up Day"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders.

Filed March 1, 2007

CHAPTER 595**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3015**

(Representatives R. Kelsch, Carlisle, Hanson, Karls, Williams)
(Senator Dever)

LEGISLATIVE EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

A concurrent resolution designating House and Senate employment positions and fixing compensation.

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

That for the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly, the following positions are designated as employee positions of the House and Senate and are to be paid the daily wages indicated:

SENATE

Secretary of the Senate	\$130
Assistant secretary of the Senate	114
Journal reporter	127
Calendar clerk	114
Bill clerk	108
Sergeant-at-arms	100
Administrative assistant to majority leader	118
Staff assistant to majority leader	118
Administrative assistant to minority leader	118
Staff assistant to minority leader	118
Chief committee clerk	118
Appropriations Committee clerk	118
Assistant Appropriations Committee clerk	114
Committee clerk for three-day committee	114
Committee clerk for two-day committee	105
Assistant committee clerk	105
Payroll clerk	95
Deputy sergeant-at-arms	83
Chief page and bill book clerk	92
Legislative assistant	77

HOUSE

Chief Clerk	\$130
Assistant chief clerk	114
Journal reporter	127
Calendar clerk	114
Bill clerk	108
Sergeant-at-arms	100
Administrative assistant to majority leader	118
Staff assistant to majority leader	118
Administrative assistant to minority leader	118
Staff assistant to minority leader	118
Administrative assistant to Speaker	118
Chief committee clerk	118

Appropriations Committee clerk	118
Assistant Appropriations Committee clerk	114
Committee clerk for three-day committee	114
Committee clerk for two-day committee	105
Assistant committee clerk	105
Deputy sergeant-at-arms	83
Chief page and bill book clerk	92
Legislative assistant	77

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each employee of the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly is entitled to an additional \$1 per day for each previous regular session of the Legislative Assembly during which that employee was paid for at least 45 days, as either an employee of the Senate or the House, and to receive this additional compensation, which may not exceed \$10 per day, that employee must certify to the Legislative Council the year of each regular session during which that employee was employed as required by this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each majority leader and each minority leader is entitled to one administrative assistant and two staff assistants, but each majority or minority leader may hire fewer or more assistants so long as the total daily compensation for the assistants hired does not exceed the total daily amount authorized for those positions by this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the report of the Employment Committee of the respective house identify the number of employees in each position by listing every employee and the position for which employed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that with the approval of the Employment Committee of the respective house, a position may be converted to a part-time position, with the daily compensation converted to a per hour rate of pay, and a part-time employee may hold more than one part-time position so long as the positions held do not exceed a full-time equivalent position; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if any employee resigns, is discharged, or for other reasons terminates employment, the compensation provided by this resolution for that employee ceases effective the last day of employment.

Filed January 22, 2007

CHAPTER 596

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3020

(Representatives Mueller, Gulleson, Nelson, Vig)
(Senators Taylor, Triplett)

RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY DECLARATION

A concurrent resolution declaring the renewable energy policy of the Legislative Assembly.

WHEREAS, the United States is over 60 percent reliant on foreign sources of energy; and

WHEREAS, the United States relies on energy from some of the most unstable parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, without a change in policy, the United States is projected to remain at 60 percent dependent on foreign sources of energy well into the future; and

WHEREAS, our country must move toward an energy-secure economy through long-term investment in alternative sources of energy; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota has diverse and robust energy resources that can play an integral part in achieving energy independence; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota has lignite coal reserves that represent an 800-year supply of energy; and

WHEREAS, the Bakken shale formation in the Williston Basin has greater oil reserves than ever before realized; and

WHEREAS, development of America's coal reserves through technologies, such as coal-to-liquid fuels, will lead the way to an energy-secure American economy; and

WHEREAS, advanced clean coal technology will effectively reduce power plant emissions; and

WHEREAS, advanced technology in the capture, sequestration, and end use for carbon dioxide from power plants will play a significant role in climate mitigation; and

WHEREAS, ethanol and biodiesel production have become and will continue to be an important part of the state's energy economy; and

WHEREAS, advanced research in biofuels produced from biomass will be critical to the long-term viability of biofuels; and

WHEREAS, other states have adopted the renewable energy objectives of the 25x25 initiative--a goal that 25 percent of our nation's energy consumption will come from renewable sources by the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, wind power has become an increasing portion of our country's energy portfolio, and North Dakota is on the leading edge of the broad use of this technology; and

WHEREAS, our country must move toward a hydrogen economy that can only be realized through aggressive research, development, and commercialization, including that being performed at the Energy and Environmental Research Center in Grand Forks;

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

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly supports a goal of 25 percent of the state and nation's energy supply come from renewable energy resources by the year 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly supports the North Dakota energy corridor initiative as well as increased federal funding for research, development, and commercialization of hydrogen fuel cells, clean coal, biomass utilization, carbon capture and storage, and coal-to-coal liquid fuel.

Filed March 8, 2007

CHAPTER 597

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3021

(Representatives Grande, Carlson, Hatlestad, Heller, Thoreson, Weiler)

RONALD REAGAN DAY

A concurrent resolution proclaiming February 6 to be Ronald Reagan Day.

WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan was born in Tampico, Illinois, on February 6, 1911; and

WHEREAS, President Ronald Wilson Reagan, a man of humble background, worked throughout his life serving freedom and advancing the public good, having been employed as an entertainer, union leader, corporate spokesman, Governor of California, and President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan served with honor and distinction for two terms as the 40th President of the United States of America, the second of which he earned the confidence of three-fifths of the electorate and was victorious in 49 of the 50 states in the general election, a record unsurpassed in the history of American presidential elections; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, when Ronald Reagan was inaugurated President, he inherited a disillusioned nation shackled by rampant inflation and high unemployment; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Reagan's presidency he worked in a bipartisan manner to enact his bold agenda of restoring accountability and common sense to government which led to an unprecedented economic expansion and opportunity for millions of Americans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reagan's commitment to an active social policy agenda for the nation's children helped lower crime and drug use in our neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan's commitment to our armed forces contributed to the restoration of pride in America, her values, and those cherished by the free world and prepared America's armed forces to meet 21st century challenges; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan's vision of "peace through strength" led to the end of the Cold War and the ultimate demise of the Soviet Union, guaranteeing basic human rights for millions of people;

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

That February 6 is proclaimed to be Ronald Reagan Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges the citizens of North Dakota to take cognizance of this event and to participate fittingly in its observance.

Filed April 10, 2007

CHAPTER 598**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3022**

(Representatives Delmore, S. Meyer, Weisz)
(Senators Grindberg, Heckaman, Lyson)

DEMENTIA-RELATED SERVICES STUDY

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the availability and future need for dementia-related services, as well as funding for programs for individuals with dementias.

WHEREAS, persons with dementias need specialized services; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 16,000 persons with dementias in North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the number of persons diagnosed with dementia is rapidly increasing, especially among the population age 85 and older; and

WHEREAS, the need for specialized services for individuals with dementias is unknown; and

WHEREAS, the needs of individuals with dementias may require specialized services for programs to increase those individuals' quality of life;

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

That the Legislative Council study the availability and future need for dementia-related services, as well as funding for programs for individuals with dementias; 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 Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.

Filed March 29, 2007

CHAPTER 599

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3023

(Representatives Wald, Carlson, Kempenich, Skarphol)
(Senators Lyson, Wardner)

ANWR DEVELOPMENT URGED

A concurrent resolution urging the President of the United States and Congress to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration and development.

WHEREAS, the oil and natural gas industry is a vital part of the United States' economy for the foreseeable future with increased oil production needed to fuel the nation's transportation system; and

WHEREAS, increasing domestic energy production and reducing dependence on foreign supplies are in the best interests of our nation's strategic and economic well-being as high energy prices impact the nation's farmers, businesses, and the consuming public; and

WHEREAS, the United States currently imports 65 percent of the petroleum it needs at a cost of more than \$160 billion a year; and

WHEREAS, the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is America's best possibility for the discovery of another onshore giant "Prudhoe Bay-sized" oil and gas field in North America, with an estimated 9 billion to 16 billion barrels of recoverable oil; and

WHEREAS, advanced technology has greatly reduced the "footprint" needed for Arctic oil development by approximately 64 percent; and

WHEREAS, only the 1.5 million acre coastal plain, 8 percent of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, is being considered for development and less than 2,000 acres of the 1.5 million acres will be affected by surface development activities while the remaining 17.5 million acres or 92 percent of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will remain permanently closed to any kind of development as federally designated wilderness; and

WHEREAS, revenues to the federal treasury will be enhanced by billions of dollars from bonus bids, lease rentals, royalties, and taxes attributable to development within the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of economic activity in every state in the Union will be created by development within the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and

WHEREAS, the north slope oil fields currently provide the United States with approximately 20 percent of its domestic production, but since 1988 this production has been on the decline, and the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline currently operates each day at less than half of its designed capacity; and

WHEREAS, government studies suggest that new production from the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge could produce a 10-year sustained rate of 1 million barrels of oil per day, supplying over 35 percent of the nation's domestic output, with production likely to continue for more than 25 years; and

WHEREAS, oil and gas development and wildlife are successfully coexisting in Alaska's Arctic, with the central arctic caribou herd at Prudhoe Bay growing from 3,000 head to as high as 31,857 head during the last 25 years of operations; and

WHEREAS, more than 75 percent of Alaskans, including a majority of the residents of Kakovik, the only Inupiat Village on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, favor exploration and production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge;

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

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges the President of the United States and Congress to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration and development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Filed March 8, 2007

CHAPTER 600**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3024**

(Representatives Delmore, Glassheim, Klein)
(Senators Holmberg, Krebsbach, Triplett)

**MILITARY PRESENCE IN NORTH DAKOTA
SUPPORTED**

A concurrent resolution in support of the efforts of the Congressional Delegation, the Governor's Task Force on Military in North Dakota, the Grand Forks Council on Military Relations, the Minot Task Force 21, and the Fargo-Moorhead (F-M) Air National Guard Support Group to maintain and enhance military force structure and missions in this state and support of state and local officials in their efforts to keep this state a first-class place for members of the armed forces to live and work.

WHEREAS, the military bases and military units located in North Dakota have a major impact on the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles located at Minot Air Force Base have been a critical component of America's strategic deterrent for over 50 years and will remain so far into the future; and

WHEREAS, Minot's B-52s, the military's most cost-effective bombers, are being used extensively in the global war on terrorism and cutting the B-52 fleet could leave the United States with a shortfall in bombers until the time when a new long-range bomber enters the inventory; and

WHEREAS, Grand Forks Air Force Base is transitioning to become a center in the emerging field of unmanned aerial systems and the Happy Hooligans in Fargo are transitioning to two of the Air Force's most important new missions--Predator unmanned aerial vehicles and future joint cargo aircraft; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Army National Guard has been heavily engaged in the war on terror since 2001; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation, the Governor's Task Force on Military in North Dakota, the Grand Forks Council on Military Relations, the Minot Task Force 21, and the F-M Air National Guard Support Group helped maintain military missions at all of North Dakota's military bases during the 2005 base realignment and closure round;

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

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly supports the efforts of the Congressional Delegation, the Governor's Task Force on Military in North Dakota, the Grand Forks Council on Military Relations, the Minot Task Force 21, and the F-M Air National Guard Support Group to maintain and enhance military force to maintain and enhance military force structure and missions in this state and supports state

and local officials in their efforts to keep this state a first-class place for members of the armed forces to live and work; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation, the Governor, the Governor's Task Force on Military in North Dakota, the Grand Forks Council on Military Relations, the Minot Task Force 21, the F-M Air National Guard Support Group, the Adjutant General of North Dakota, to the officer in charge of each air force base in this state, and the North Dakota League of Cities.

Filed March 21, 2007

CHAPTER 601**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3025**

(Representatives Ekstrom, Klein, Wald)
(Senators Bakke, Grindberg, Horne)

POPULATION AND WORKFORCE GROWTH STUDY

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study possible methods of growing North Dakota's population and increasing the available workforce in the state.

WHEREAS, during the decade before the last decennial census, the population of the state grew by one-half of one percent, which was the smallest relative growth rate of all 50 states; and

WHEREAS, during the early part of this decade, the estimates of the United States Census Bureau indicated that the population of the state declined, and the estimated population of the state remains below the actual population in 2000; and

WHEREAS, three population trends affecting the state--rural depopulation, outmigration of young adults and young families, and an increasing proportion of the elderly--contribute toward a difficulty in businesses meeting workforce needs;

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

That the Legislative Council study possible methods of growing North Dakota's population and increasing the available workforce in the state; 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 Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.

Filed March 20, 2007

CHAPTER 602**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3026**

(Representatives Mueller, Nelson, Wall)
(Senators Klein, O'Connell, Wanzek)

**ONE-CALL EXCAVATION NOTICE SYSTEM PENALTY
STUDY**

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the feasibility and desirability of establishing legislation for the enforcement and assessment of civil penalties for violation of the one-call excavation notice system.

WHEREAS, there is currently a one-call excavation notice system that was established in 1995 that is operated through the North Dakota One-Call Board, a nonprofit corporation established within North Dakota Century Code Chapter 49-23; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the one-call excavation notice system is for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the public, the owners and operators of underground facilities, and for the preservation of the underground facilities; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of the North Dakota one-call excavation notice system do not include a civil process for the enforcement of the one-call excavation notice system or for any civil penalty assessed with the violation of the system; and

WHEREAS, according to the Common Ground Alliance, an association dedicated to ensuring public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services by promoting effective damage prevention practices in North America, Damage Information Reporting Tool for 2005, "DIRT Report", nationwide 16,089 reports of damage or "near-miss" events were due to "No notification made to the One-Call notification center" and is the leading root cause of cases of underground facility damage, 31.2 percent; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, 10,421 events were reported; and

WHEREAS, official minutes from the North Dakota One-Call Board meeting of November 17, 2005, state that since year 2000, the director of Education and Public Relations for ND One-Call has sent out 100 certified letters because of damage complaints which the director has received; and

WHEREAS, there are federal grant funds available from the United States Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration that may be used to develop or carry out state damage prevention programs in support of public safety, subject to a determination that an effective damage prevention program includes enforcement of state damage prevention laws and regulations for all aspects of the damage prevention process, including public education, and the use of civil penalties for violations assessable by the appropriate state authority;

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

That the Legislative Council study the feasibility and desirability of establishing legislation for the enforcement of and assessment of civil penalties for violation of the one-call excavation notice system; 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 Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.

Filed March 20, 2007

CHAPTER 603**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3028**

(Representatives Monson, Aarsvold, Nelson)

(Senators Heitkamp, Holmberg, Wanzek)

**CONGRESS URGED TO RECOGNIZE INDUSTRIAL
HEMP BENEFITS**

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to recognize the multiple benefits of industrial hemp and to facilitate the growing of industrial hemp and the expansion of industries reliant on industrial hemp-based products.

WHEREAS, the first record of hemp plant use for stem fiber comes from the Chinese during the 28th century B.C.; and

WHEREAS, over the centuries, hemp was valued for maritime uses, clothing, and bagging for cotton; and

WHEREAS, today hemp is produced legally in more than 30 nations, including Canada, Great Britain, France, Germany, Australia, and China, and is used in textiles, automotive door panels, luggage racks, insulation, horticultural growth mats, mulch, animal bedding, mortars, paper, biomass fuel, salad dressings, nutrition bars, flour breads, cookies, granola, meatless burgers, protein powders, chips, pasta, coffee blends, frozen desserts, and body care products such as lotions, lip balms, conditioners, shampoos, soaps, shaving products, and massage oils; and

WHEREAS, the demand for industrial hemp has resulted in the United States becoming the world's largest importer of foreign-grown hemp; and

WHEREAS, American farmers have been prevented from enjoying the economic benefits of lucrative new hemp markets because of existing federal barriers;

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

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to recognize the multiple benefits that are obtainable through the production of industrial hemp and to do all things necessary and proper to facilitate the growing of industrial hemp and the expansion of industries reliant on industrial hemp-based products; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Filed April 5, 2007

CHAPTER 604**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3030**

(Representatives Kempenich, Drovdal, S. Meyer)
(Senators Bowman, O'Connell, Stenehjem)

MISS RODEO AMERICA 2007 CONGRATULATED

A concurrent resolution congratulating Ms. Ashley Andrews on becoming Miss Rodeo America 2007.

WHEREAS, Ashley Andrews is a 21-year-old resident of Bowman, North Dakota, and a senior at the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, Ashley Andrews competed for the coveted title at the 52nd Annual Miss Rodeo America Pageant in Las Vegas, Nevada; and

WHEREAS, having won the national title, Ashley Andrews became the first resident of North Dakota to do so in 24 years; and

WHEREAS, during this coming year, Ashley Andrews will travel over 100,000 miles, appear at over 100 rodeos, and represent the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association as Miss Rodeo America 2007; and

WHEREAS, Ashley Andrews is a beautiful, talented, and intelligent young woman, a cancer survivor, and a credit to her North Dakota roots;

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

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly extends its heartiest congratulations to Ms. Ashley Andrews and wishes her much joy and happiness as she undertakes her new role as Miss Rodeo America 2007; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward a copy of this resolution to Ms. Andrews and her parents, Bob and Rita Andrews.

Filed March 8, 2007

CHAPTER 605**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3031**

(Representatives Wolf, Boehning, Heller, Mueller, Schneider)
(Senator Lyson)

**RESTITUTION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT
PASSAGE URGED**

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to reintroduce the Restitution for Victims of Crime Act to improve the collection of federal court-ordered restitution and other criminal debt and urging the United States Department of Justice to recover court-ordered restitution that is owed innocent victims.

WHEREAS, victims of crime and their families often face significant challenges trying to rebuild their lives and recover a sense of emotional and financial security after a crime has been perpetrated against them; and

WHEREAS, victims of federal crimes are entitled by law to full and timely restitution for losses from a convicted offender; and

WHEREAS, the amount of uncollected federal criminal debt increased from \$6 billion in 1996 to over \$41 billion by the end of fiscal year 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Government Accountability Office found that federal criminal justice officials collected an average of just four cents on every dollar of criminal debt that was owed to crime victims in years 2000, 2001, and 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Restitution for Victims of Crime Act was introduced in the 109th Congress in the United States Senate by Senators Dorgan and Grassley and others to give Justice Department officials the tools they need to aid in collecting court-ordered federal fines and restitutions; and

WHEREAS, this legislation will remove many impediments to increased collections and help federal criminal justice officials prevent criminal defendants from spending or hiding their ill-gotten gains and other financial assets by setting up preconviction procedures for preserving assets for victims' restitution; and

WHEREAS, the Restitution for Victims of Crime Act of 2006 has been endorsed by the United States Attorney for North Dakota and a number of organizations concerned about the well-being of crime victims, including the National Center for Victims of Crime, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the National Organization for Victims Assistance, the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, Parents of Murdered Children, Inc., Justice Solutions, the National Network to End Domestic Violence, and the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators;

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

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to reintroduce the Restitution for Victims of Crime Act to improve the collection

of federal court-ordered restitution and other criminal debt and urges the United States Department of Justice to recover court-ordered restitution that is owed innocent victims; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the United States Attorney General and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Filed March 20, 2007

CHAPTER 606**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3032**

(Representatives Gullerson, Berg, Boucher, Hawken)
(Senators Nelson, Stenehjem)

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT REAFFIRMED

A concurrent resolution acknowledging the actions of the 44th Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and the sponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4007 affirming the equal application of the United States Constitution to all citizens through the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment; declaring Friday, March 9, 2007, North Dakota Equal Rights Amendment Recognition Day; and encouraging a recommitment to the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in all states and final passage in Congress.

WHEREAS, the proposed Equal Rights Amendment provides "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex" and Congress sent the Equal Rights Amendment to the states for ratification on March 22, 1972; and

WHEREAS, on February 11, 1975, North Dakota became the 34th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, due to the efforts of a broad spectrum of supporters, including the Coordinating Council for the Equal Rights Amendment, the 44th Legislative Assembly, and Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4007 sponsors Senators Redlin and Lips and Representatives Homuth and Pyle; and

WHEREAS, many women worked all of their lives for a constitutional amendment affirming that women had equal rights and protections under the United States Constitution, including Alice Paul, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony; and

WHEREAS, 35 of the needed 38 states ratified the Equal Rights Amendment and without ratification the United States Constitution fails to guarantee female citizens equal rights and equal justice;

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

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly acknowledges the actions of the 44th Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and the sponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4007 affirming the equal application of the United States Constitution to all citizens through the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly declares Friday, March 9, 2007, North Dakota Equal Rights Amendment Recognition Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly encourages a recommitment to the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in all states and final passage in Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Filed March 20, 2007

CHAPTER 607**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3033**

(Representatives Froelich, S. Meyer)

CANADIAN CATTLE IMPORTATION BAN URGED

A concurrent resolution urging Congress not to allow the importation of Canadian cattle over 30 months of age.

WHEREAS, in 2003 the United States border was closed to Canadian cattle in response to findings of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in the cattle; and

WHEREAS, after the implementation of corrective measures, the border was reopened in 2005 to Canadian cattle less than 30 months of age; and

WHEREAS, many fear that consideration is now being given to removal of the age restriction on Canadian cattle; and

WHEREAS, cattle over 30 months of age which originate in a BSE-affected country have an inherently higher risk of having been infected with BSE; and

WHEREAS, there has been insufficient time since Canada's last case of BSE to determine whether the corrective measures implemented by Canada have been successful in preventing the spread of BSE; and

WHEREAS, the United States cannot afford any further reduction in its share of the global beef market stemming from American products that contain beef from Canadian cattle; and

WHEREAS, the United States should not further relax its already lenient import standards until it is scientifically documented that BSE is no longer a risk in Canadian cattle and that there is international acceptance of that conclusion, as demonstrated by a restoration of international markets for American beef and beef products;

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

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States not to allow the importation of Canadian cattle over 30 months of age until there is scientific evidence, coupled with a sufficient time lapse, to ensure that any corrective measures implemented to counter the incidences of BSE in Canada have been successful; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the United States Secretary of Agriculture and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Filed March 8, 2007

CHAPTER 608**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3034**

(Representatives D. Johnson, DeKrey)
(Senator Wanzek)

**POTATO COUNCIL FUNDING, GOVERNANCE, AND
REFUNDS STUDY**

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the feasibility and desirability of addressing the current imbalance in the funding and governance of the North Dakota State Potato Council and of eliminating refunds from the potato assessment law.

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Potato Industry Promotion Act was enacted in 1967 with the specific intent of dividing the state into five districts containing "as nearly equal potato acreage as practicable" with one participating potato grower elected from each district; and

WHEREAS, the potato districts have remained geographically unchanged since 1976, with potato districts 1 through 4 consisting of six counties and district 5 consisting of the remaining 47 counties; and

WHEREAS, currently the majority of North Dakota potato production occurs within the 47 counties of district 5; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota potato growers pay three cents for each 100-pound bag of potatoes they produce; and

WHEREAS, the dollars collected through the potato assessment support the research, development, advertising, marketing, education, and promotion of potatoes and the potato industry; and

WHEREAS, all potato farmers benefit from efforts that are funded by the potato assessment; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota is the only major potato-producing state that has a refund provision in its potato assessment law; and

WHEREAS, some growers believe that the refund provision should be retained because it is the only way they can make a meaningful statement about the manner in which and the purpose for which their assessment dollars are expended;

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

That the Legislative Council study the feasibility and desirability of eliminating refunds from the potato assessment law, including the effect eliminating refunds would have on the potato industry in this state and on efforts to promote potatoes, and the effect eliminating refunds of potato assessments might have with respect to the checkoff provisions of other commodities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council study the feasibility and desirability of addressing the current imbalance of representation in and funding of the North Dakota State Potato Council and the expenditure of checkoff funds by the council and the associations supported by potato checkoff funds; 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 Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.

Filed April 13, 2007

CHAPTER 609**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3035**

(Representatives Berg, Boucher)
(Senators Stenehjem, O'Connell)

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCE

A concurrent resolution proclaiming February 12, 2008, through February 12, 2010, the official observance of the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth.

WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States and one of the nation's greatest leaders, demonstrated courage, compassion, and integrity during one of the most turbulent and violent periods in American history; and

WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln was born of humble beginnings in a log cabin in Kentucky and rose to the presidency through a legacy of honesty, intelligence, and determination, as well as a strong dedication to the nation he served; and

WHEREAS, with the belief that all men are created equal, Abraham Lincoln led the national effort to free all slaves in the United State; and

WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln delivered his immortal speech in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on November 19, 1863, invoking the basic principles of human equality as outlined in the Declaration of Independence, thereby transforming the objective of the American Civil War from saving the Union to fostering "a new birth of freedom" and reemphasizing the underlying purpose of government to be an institution "of the people, by the people, and for the people"; and

WHEREAS, despite the tragedy and turmoil of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln demonstrated through words and actions a generosity of heart and greatness of character that generated a spirit of reconciliation with malice toward none and charity for all; and

WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln signed into law the Homestead Act on May 20, 1862, which had a major impact in opening up the settlement of the northern plains, including what is now North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln signed into law the Morrill Land Grant College Act, on July 2, 1862, which provided grants of land nationwide for the establishment of colleges specializing in agriculture and engineering resulting in the establishment of what is now North Dakota State University; and

WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln appointed the first two governors of the Dakota Territory, part of which later became North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln signed the charter for the Northern Pacific Railroad on July 2, 1864, the construction of which through what is now North Dakota led to the settlement of many towns and cities; and

WHEREAS, forts in North Dakota were named in the late President's honor, including Fort Abraham Lincoln near Mandan and Fort Lincoln near Bismarck; and

WHEREAS, a heroic-sized bust of Abraham Lincoln stands in Frogner Park in Oslo, Norway, sculpted by Valley City artist Paul Fjelde in 1914 and presented as a gift from the people of North Dakota to the people of Norway, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Syttende Mai, Norwegian Independence Day; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has created the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission to study and recommend worthy national activities to honor Abraham Lincoln in 2009; and

WHEREAS, North Dakotans are beginning preparations for events and programs to commemorate statewide the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth; and

WHEREAS, North Dakotans and all Americans may derive inspiration and benefit from the study of the life, words, and deeds of our nation's 16th President;

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

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota proclaims February 12, 2008, through February 12, 2010, to be the official observance of the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Assembly invites all North Dakotans to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth on Thursday, February 12, 2009.

Filed March 20, 2007

CHAPTER 610**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3036**

(Representatives S. Kelsh, Gulleeson, Owens)
(Senators Anderson, Mathern)

TAX HAVEN DENIAL URGED

A concurrent resolution urging Congress and the President of the United States to enact federal legislation to deny unintended tax benefits to foreign subsidiaries of United States companies which are set up in tax haven countries.

WHEREAS, many profitable multinational businesses are using offshore tax havens to avoid paying their fair share of United States taxes; and

WHEREAS, an investigation by a former economist for the Joint Committee on Taxation revealed that United States multinational companies had moved hundreds of billions of dollars of profits to tax havens for years 1999 through 2002, the most recent years for which Internal Revenue Service data was available; and

WHEREAS, recent evidence suggests that the tax haven problem is getting worse and may be draining the United States Treasury of tens of billions of dollars every year; and

WHEREAS, Senators Byron Dorgan and Carl Levin introduced federal legislation in the 109th Congress to put an end to this tax avoidance scheme adopted by many United States companies that shift their United States earned profits to offshore tax haven subsidiaries; and

WHEREAS, enactment of this legislation would save the United States Treasury, and therefore American taxpayers, an estimated \$15 billion over the next 10 years;

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

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges Senators Byron Dorgan and Carl Levin to reintroduce and work to enact federal legislation in the 110th Congress which would deny unintended tax benefits to foreign subsidiaries of United States companies that are set up in tax haven countries and urges the President of the United States to support this legislative effort, abandon the current ineffective methods for combatting offshore tax haven abuses, and adopt new enforcement tools and tax policies to ensure multinational companies operating in this country pay the United States taxes they rightfully owe; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to Senators Byron Dorgan and Carl Levin, the President of the United States, and the other members of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Filed March 29, 2007

CHAPTER 611**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3037**
(Representatives Kempenich, Drovdal, Heller, Onstad)
(Senators Christmann, Warner)**FEDERAL MINERAL PAYMENTS FOR PILT
DECOUPLING URGED**

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to decouple federal mineral royalty revenue payments from states to counties when calculating PILT payments.

WHEREAS, the Federal Mineral Leasing Act intended for states to share the mineral royalties with counties, giving priority to those taxing jurisdictions for the impact and infrastructure needs incurred by the industry that pays the royalty; and

WHEREAS, federal mineral royalty revenue is considered prior year payments in the current PILT formula; and

WHEREAS, prior year payments connected to the PILT formula is a detriment to any economic development in which federal natural resources are extracted in that local government's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the decision to extract natural resources owned by the federal government should be based only on the economic and scientific data available and not other programs such as PILT; and

WHEREAS, local governments may not have increased nontax revenue due to increased prior year payment because PILT is deducted proportionately; and

WHEREAS, federal mineral royalty revenue that is passed on from the states to counties is currently being deducted from their PILT payments as prior year payments; and

WHEREAS, PILT payments are payments in lieu of taxes on federal lands; and

WHEREAS, federal mineral royalties are not only derived from minerals held under federal land but under private land as well; and

WHEREAS, counties should not be penalized when states share royalty revenue with counties for offsetting the impacts of the industry;

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

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to decouple federal mineral royalty revenue payments from states to counties when calculating PILT payments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Filed March 27, 2007

CHAPTER 612**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3039**

(Representatives Berg, Boucher, Delzer)
(Senators Stenehjem, J. Lee, O'Connell)

TAIWAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT URGED

A concurrent resolution urging the United States Secretary of Commerce to complete a Taiwan-United States free trade agreement.

WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States enjoy one of the most important economic and strategic international relationships that exist today; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States promote shared beliefs in freedom, democracy, and market principles; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is the fourth largest market in the world for United States hard red spring wheat; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan imported 585,000 metric tons of hard red spring wheat from the United States in the 2005-06 marketing year as a cash customer; and

WHEREAS, a Taiwan-United States free trade agreement would encourage greater innovation and new cooperative ventures for producers and entrepreneurs of both nations; and

WHEREAS, a Taiwan-United States free trade agreement would build on the strong relationship between Taiwan and the United States by simultaneously enhancing security and democracy and serving the broader interests of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region;

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

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges the United States Secretary of Commerce to complete a Taiwan-United States free trade agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly is supportive of all efforts to grant Taiwan official observer status at the World Health Assembly because Taiwan has had substantial achievements in the field of health, Taiwan has been a collaborative partner of the United States on a wide range of public health issues, and Taiwan can have a major regional and even global impact on people's health and well-being; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, the United States Secretary of Commerce, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, the United States Trade Representative, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

CHAPTER 613**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3041**

(Representatives Boe, Froelich, Onstad)

HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING STUDY

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the trends and correlations of property tax revenue in relation to funding human service delivery in individual counties.

WHEREAS, North Dakota operates a state supervised, county administered system of human services delivery; and

WHEREAS, county property taxes support a significant share of human service delivery costs in the state; and

WHEREAS, the human service needs of a county and their related costs are not well correlated with the individual county's ability to generate property tax; and

WHEREAS, six of North Dakota's counties have more than twenty percent of their human service caseload made up by people who reside on a federally recognized Indian reservation or property tax-exempt tribal trust lands; and

WHEREAS, these reservation counties have some of the lowest capacity to generate property tax revenue but some of the largest and fastest growing human service costs, creating great difficulty in meeting these critical human service needs;

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

That the Legislative Council study the trends and correlations of property tax revenue in relation to funding human service delivery in individual counties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.

Filed March 29, 2007

CHAPTER 614**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3042**

(Representatives Monson, R. Kelsch, Weisz)
(Senators Holmberg, Warner)

HEMP DIFFERENTIATION URGED

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to direct the United States Drug Enforcement Administration to differentiate between industrial hemp and marijuana.

WHEREAS, "industrial hemp" refers to varieties of cannabis that have less than three-tenths of 1 percent tetrahydrocannabinol and which are genetically distinct from drug varieties of cannabis commonly known as marijuana; and

WHEREAS, it was never the intent of Congress to interfere with or otherwise prohibit the production and utilization of industrial hemp; and

WHEREAS, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has ruled that the federal Controlled Substances Act of 1970 explicitly excludes nonpsychoactive industrial hemp from the definition of marijuana; and

WHEREAS, industrial hemp is grown commercially in more than 30 nations without undue restriction or complications; and

WHEREAS, the reluctance of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration to decriminalize industrial hemp is denying agricultural producers in this country the ability to benefit from a high-value, low-input crop that requires no pesticides and which can provide significant economic benefits not only to American producers but also to American manufacturers;

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

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to direct the United States Drug Enforcement Administration to differentiate between industrial hemp and marijuana, thereby legalizing the production of industrial hemp and its use in American manufacturing efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Administrator of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, the Attorney General of the United States, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Filed March 20, 2007

CHAPTER 615**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3043**

(Representatives Schneider, N. Johnson)

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AWARENESS DAY

A concurrent resolution proclaiming January 29, 2007, as American Cancer Society Awareness Day.

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering through research, education, advocacy, and service; and

WHEREAS, by 2015 the American Cancer Society hopes to reduce the incidence of cancer by 25 percent, reduce cancer mortality by 50 percent, and improve measurably the quality of life for cancer survivors; and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society seeks to prevent cancer by reducing risks and improving healthy behaviors of North Dakota citizens; and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society wants North Dakota to lead the nation in appropriate screening and early detection of cancer and increase access to effective cancer treatment and care; and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society wants to optimize the quality of life for every person affected by cancer and continually and respectfully works to identify and reduce cancer disparities in North Dakota;

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

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly proclaims January 29, 2007, as American Cancer Society Awareness Day.

Filed March 29, 2007

CHAPTER 616**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3044**

(Representatives Berg, Boucher)

(Senators Stenehjem, O'Connell)

MISSOURI RIVER WATERS STUDY

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study how the state might pursue additional uses of Lake Sakakawea and Missouri River waters for such beneficial purposes as domestic and industrial uses, recreation, fish and wildlife, and irrigation, and how the state, to enhance its use of the lake and river, might promote congressional review of the 1944 Flood Control Act and a reexamination by the Corps of Engineers of the way in which it manages the Missouri River system.

WHEREAS, a significant natural resource issue for our state, as well as the nation, is management of the Missouri River and Lake Sakakawea; and

WHEREAS, since enactment of the 1944 Flood Control Act, which governs Missouri River management, numerous economic, environmental, and social changes have occurred in the Missouri River Basin; and

WHEREAS, for many years state officials have diligently worked to encourage the Corps of Engineers to manage the Missouri River system equitably and consistently with contemporary circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the state recently obtained a court order requiring that the Corps issue a new Master Manual, the document by which it operates the Missouri River system; and

WHEREAS, the new Master Manual is an improvement and contains provisions more reflective of contemporary needs and more protective of Upper Basin interest; and

WHEREAS, despite these improvements, the Corps' management of the Missouri River system remains outdated and restricts the ability of the state and its citizens to use Lake Sakakawea and Missouri River waters creatively, judiciously, and consistently with contemporary needs and opportunities;

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

That the Legislative Council study how the state might pursue additional uses of Lake Sakakawea and Missouri River waters for such beneficial purposes as domestic and industrial uses, recreation, fish and wildlife, and irrigation, and how the state, to enhance its use of the lake and river, might promote congressional review of the 1944 Flood Control Act and a reexamination by the Corps of Engineers of the way in which it manages the Missouri River system; 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 Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.

Filed March 8, 2007

CHAPTER 617**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3046**

(Representatives Mueller, Kingsbury, Price)

(Senators Bakke, Flakoll, Mathern)

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES PROMOTION STUDY

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study ways in which various public and private entities can cooperate with families to promote healthy lifestyles for children and create awareness about the interplay of healthy lifestyle choices and educational success.

WHEREAS, sound physical and mental health impact a child's ability to benefit fully from the array of educational opportunities that are made available; and

WHEREAS, choices that a child makes regarding diet, exercise, and substance use impact the child's overall well-being and success in an educational environment; and

WHEREAS, smart choices help to alleviate a variety of conditions, including obesity, diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, osteoporosis, and cancer; and

WHEREAS, parents, teachers, health care professionals, and representatives of public and private entities can provide useful information and guidance to children as they learn to evaluate their many choices;

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

That the Legislative Council study ways in which various public and private entities can cooperate with families to promote healthy lifestyles for children and create awareness about the interplay of healthy lifestyle choices and educational success; 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 Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.

Filed April 10, 2007

CHAPTER 618**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3048**

(Representatives Ekstrom, Pollert, Wieland, Wolf)
(Senators Cook, Krebsbach)

CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION STUDY

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study crime victims compensation funding.

WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's crime victims compensation fund has not received the anticipated level of federal funding; and

WHEREAS, the crime victims compensation fund has been unable to meet its financial obligations in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, other states have developed different strategies to fund crime victims compensation funds;

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

That the Legislative Council conduct a comprehensive interim study, including a review of other states' efforts, and receive input from victim advocacy groups and medical providers; 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 Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.

Filed March 20, 2007

CHAPTER 619**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3049**

(Representatives Ekstrom, Clark, Gullekson, Pollert)
(Senators Klein, Wardner)

RENAISSANCE ZONE LAW STUDY

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study whether it is feasible and desirable to modify the renaissance zone law to allow for scattered site development.

WHEREAS, in 1999 the 56th Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill No. 1492, creating North Dakota renaissance zone law, which is codified as North Dakota Century Code Chapter 40-63; and

WHEREAS, since the enactment of the renaissance zone law, there have been amendments to this law during each legislative session, reflecting the evolution of the program and the needs of renaissance zone communities; and

WHEREAS, a city renaissance zone can be a very important and beneficial tool for community redevelopment and economic investment, pulling together the entire community to consider the long-term development plans of the city; and

WHEREAS, more than 30 North Dakota cities have renaissance zones, covering all regions of the state and with participation by cities of all sizes; and

WHEREAS, a city's long-term development plan may include recognition that the site of certain types of existing or new businesses may be more appropriate outside the boundaries of the city's renaissance zone;

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

That the Legislative Council study whether it is feasible and desirable to modify the renaissance zone law to allow for scattered site development; 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 Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.

Filed April 5, 2007

CHAPTER 620**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3056**

(Representatives N. Johnson, DeKrey, Delmore, S. Meyer)
(Senator Lyson)

MISSING PERSONS STUDY

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the search for and identification of missing persons.

WHEREAS, each year families in the United States struggle with the agony of having to report a missing family member; and

WHEREAS, in many cases, missing persons investigations grow cold due to an inability of different jurisdictions to share resources and information when conducting investigations and identifying remains; and

WHEREAS, not finding or identifying a missing person leaves families of the missing person without closure; and

WHEREAS, a cohesive law among the states and cooperation with the federal government which adequately addresses the use of the available resources of the Federal Bureau of Investigation with its national DNA data base are needed to find missing persons and identify remains of unknown individuals;

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

That the Legislative Council study the search for and identification of missing persons; 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 Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.

Filed March 20, 2007

CHAPTER 621**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3057**

(Representatives Wrangham, Ruby)

(Senator Cook)

INCOME TAX BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYERS STUDY

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the corporate and individual income tax laws to determine the feasibility and desirability of providing income tax benefits for employers to encourage expansion of employment opportunities in the state.

WHEREAS, corporate employers and employers doing business as individuals, partnerships, or other business entities provide employment for thousands of North Dakotans and are the backbone of the state economy's retail, service, construction, manufacturing, transportation, and energy sectors; and

WHEREAS, whether income tax benefits for employers could effectively and efficiently encourage expanded employment opportunities and improved wages for employees should be considered; and

WHEREAS, appropriately structured tax benefits might be implemented with a positive fiscal impact on state tax revenues because of offsetting benefits of expanded employment and improved wages;

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

That the Legislative Council study the corporate and individual income tax laws to determine the feasibility and desirability of providing income tax benefits for employers to encourage expansion of employment opportunities in this state; 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 Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.

Filed March 27, 2007

CHAPTER 622**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3059**

(Representative Wrangham)
(Senator Triplett)

CITY EXTRATERRITORIAL ZONING STUDY

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the exercise of extraterritorial zoning authority by cities.

WHEREAS, North Dakota Century Code Section 40-47-01.1 authorizes cities to extend their zoning regulations from one mile to as far as four miles outside the corporate limits of a city; and

WHEREAS, the extension of a city's zoning authority to unincorporated territory outside the corporate limits of a city was extended by the Legislative Assembly in 1997 and the zoning authority should be reviewed; and

WHEREAS, extraterritorial zoning by cities affects citizens living outside the corporate limits of a city and the involvement of those citizens should be considered in the determination of whether a city may extend the application of the city's zoning regulations outside the corporate limits of a city;

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

That the Legislative Council study the exercise of extraterritorial zoning authority by cities; 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 Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.

Filed April 5, 2007

CHAPTER 623**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3061**

(Representatives Onstad, Boe, D. Johnson, Mueller, Vig)

(Senator Taylor)

CONFINED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION STUDY

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the financial and environmental impact of confined animal feeding operations on individual property owners and local communities and develop clear, concise, and consistent laws governing the siting and regulation of confined animal feeding operations.

WHEREAS, confined animal feeding operations in this state account for approximately 25 percent of all agricultural income; and

WHEREAS, byproducts from the expansion of ethanol and biodiesel industries will provide opportunities for increases in confined animal feeding operations; and

WHEREAS, the siting of confined animal feeding operations is currently governed by various state agencies, boards of county commissioners, and boards of township supervisors; and

WHEREAS, conflicts and inconsistencies exist between the laws and regulations of the various governmental entities; and

WHEREAS, the growth and development of confined animal feeding operations need to be balanced against the financial and environmental impacts that such operations can have on individual landowners and local communities;

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

That the Legislative Council study the financial and environmental impact of confined animal feeding operations on individual property owners and local communities and develop clear, concise, and consistent laws governing the siting and regulation of confined animal feeding operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the state health officer and the commissioner of agriculture jointly convene a task force composed of state agency representatives, local government officials, organizations, and groups involved in the development of confined animal feeding operations to assist the Legislative Council in data gathering, analysis, and the formulation of recommendations; 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 Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.

CHAPTER 624**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3062**

(Representatives Onstad, Bellew, Gruchalla, Ruby)

UNDERAGE DRINKING STUDY

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study solutions to the problem of underage drinking.

WHEREAS, the number of minors who reported using alcohol in the past month in North Dakota was 42.7 percent according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health Report for 2003-04; and

WHEREAS, according to the same report, the number of minors in Tennessee who reported using alcohol in the last month was 22.3 percent; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has the lowest underage use of alcohol and North Dakota has the highest underage use of alcohol; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has serious consequences for minor in possession, including the loss of the minor's license to operate a motor vehicle for at least 90 days, even if the minor was not operating a vehicle at the time of the offense;

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

That the Legislative Council study solutions to the problem of underage drinking; 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 Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.

Filed March 29, 2007

CHAPTER 625**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3063**

(Representatives Boehning, Amerman, Haas)
(Senators Dever, Krebsbach, Nelson)

VETERANS' SERVICES DELIVERY STUDY

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the delivery and funding of veterans' services by the state and counties.

WHEREAS, so long as the people of this state live free there will be veterans of military service who have sacrificed to secure that freedom; and

WHEREAS, these veterans are entitled to a host of state and federal benefits and may seek advice and aid from the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs, North Dakota Department of Veterans' Affairs, or a county veterans' service officer in obtaining these benefits; and

WHEREAS, the various state and federal veterans' benefits programs are constantly changing; and

WHEREAS, the state and the counties may not have adequate human or financial resources to provide the maximum service necessary to ensure that eligible veterans receive the benefits to which they are entitled; and

WHEREAS, providing the qualifying benefits to all eligible veterans meets the goal for which these benefits were created - repaying veterans for their dedicated service;

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

That the Legislative Council study the delivery of veterans' services by the state and counties; 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 Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.

Filed March 20, 2007

CHAPTER 626**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3065**

(Representatives Haas, D. Johnson, S. Meyer)

(Senators Bowman, Krauter, Urlacher)

(Approved by the Delayed Bills Committee)

GREAT WESTERN CATTLE TRAIL RECOGNIZED

A concurrent resolution recognizing the placement of North Dakota's first marker on the Great Western Cattle Trail.

WHEREAS, the Great Western Cattle Trail was blazed in 1874 by John T. Lytle; and

WHEREAS, by 1879, the Great Western Cattle Trail was the principal thoroughfare for Texas longhorns bound for the northern markets; and

WHEREAS, by the time of the last drive, in 1893, the Great Western Cattle Trail had served approximately seven million cattle, hundreds of trail bosses, chuckwagons, and remudas; achieved almost mythical stature on the American frontier; and solidified its place in the history of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, and the province of Saskatchewan; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, Rotary clubs launched a project to mark the entire Great Western Cattle Trail with concrete posts placed every 6 to 10 miles; and

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2008, Rotary District 5580 will proudly place the state's first marker in Medora, North Dakota;

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

That the North Dakota Legislative Assembly is proud to recognize the cooperative efforts of the Rotary clubs and districts and the citizens of the multiple states stretching from southern Texas to the far northern reaches of the Dakotas and Saskatchewan and is equally proud to commemorate the placement of North Dakota's first trail marker and thereby acknowledge for all time the legendary role of the Great Western Cattle Trail in the history of our states and our people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward a copy of this resolution to the governor of Rotary District 5580.

Filed April 4, 2007