

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3013

Introduced by

Representatives Zaiser, Amerman, Delmore, Griffin, Kaldor

Senator Potter

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the availability of legal
2 representation to assist injured employees in understanding and pursuing Workforce Safety and
3 Insurance decisions.

4 **WHEREAS**, during the 2007-08 interim, the interim Industry, Business, and Labor
5 Committee and the Workers' Compensation Review Committee studied workers' compensation
6 issues, including receipt of testimony from injured employees who expressed concern with the
7 lack of availability of lawyers willing to represent injured employees in workers' compensation
8 cases; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the state's workers' compensation laws can be complex and difficult for a
10 layperson to navigate; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the importance of making knowledge-based decisions in workers'
12 compensation matters is evidenced by Workforce Safety and Insurance's use of legal
13 representation; and

14 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota law and Workforce Safety and Insurance administrative rules
15 address the terms under which an injured employee may be reimbursed for attorney's fees and
16 costs;

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

19 That the Legislative Council study the availability of legal representation to assist injured
20 employees in understanding and pursuing Workforce Safety and Insurance decisions; and

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