

Introduced by

Senators Mathern, Dever, Armstrong

Representatives Steiner, Mooney, J. Nelson

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to study the impact of the
2 marriage penalty within the supplemental security income program and the impact of the
3 marriage penalty on retirement benefits under the Social Security Act and encouraging the
4 North Dakota Congressional Delegation to address the impact within the Social Security laws.

5 **WHEREAS**, supplemental security income rescues from poverty over 7,650 low-income
6 individuals with disabilities in this state; and

7 **WHEREAS**, many older residents depend on social security benefits for retirement income;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS**, the income of a recipient's spouse is considered in calculating the benefits for
10 a recipient; and

11 **WHEREAS**, benefits for a married couple, both of whom receive supplemental security
12 income and have no other income, are 25 percent less than the total they would receive if they
13 were living together but not as husband and wife; and

14 **WHEREAS**, social security benefits may be reduced for married couples; and

15 **WHEREAS**, such circumstances provide a financial incentive for some retired individuals
16 and individuals with disabilities to forgo marriage; and

17 **WHEREAS**, this state supports family values and the sanctity of marriage; and

18 **WHEREAS**, an examination should be made of the impact that the marriage penalty has
19 within the supplemental security income program and the social security program; the number
20 of residents affected by the marriage penalty; the impact of the marriage penalty on housing
21 affordability; the ability of married recipients in this state to meet their basic needs; whether the
22 marriage penalty holds married recipients below the poverty level in this state; and the manner
23 in which other states address the impact of the marriage penalty;

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

1 That the Legislative Management study the impact of the marriage penalty within the
2 supplemental security income program and the impact of the marriage penalty on retirement
3 benefits under the Social Security Act; and

4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Legislative Management report its findings and
5 recommendations, together with any legislation to implement the recommendations, to the
6 Sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly; and

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution
8 to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation and that the Sixty-fourth
9 Legislative Assembly encourages members of the Congressional Delegation to address this
10 issue within the Social Security laws.