

Introduced by

Representatives Hanson, Hawken, Looyesen, Oversen

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to study the pay-it-forward model
2 of funding higher education.

3 **WHEREAS**, college affordability has emerged as a central issue for state and federal
4 policymakers; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the inadequate funding of higher education has over time shifted greater
6 amounts of the college financing burden to students and their parents; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the combination of high tuition rates and high fees has resulted in record
8 student debt levels and overarching concerns that a college education is becoming out of reach
9 for students from low-income and middle-income families; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the urgency to find bold policy solutions for higher education affordability has
11 generated options such as the pay-it-forward model; and

12 **WHEREAS**, under a pay-it-forward model of funding higher education, a student is
13 permitted to pursue a degree or diploma without incurring tuition costs, provided the student
14 agrees to pay back a small percentage of the student's income for a period of approximately
15 twenty years; and

16 **WHEREAS**, under a pay-it-forward model of funding higher education, a graduate's
17 repayment would be proportionate to the graduate's income; and

18 **WHEREAS**, a pay-it-forward model is not a sole solution to all higher education debt, it
19 could address many of the existing concerns and further open doors of opportunity within higher
20 education for students from low-income and middle-income families;

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

23 That the Legislative Management study the pay-it-forward model of funding higher
24 education, including the potential benefits for students of this state, any administrative changes

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- 1 that would be necessitated by implementation of the model, and the short-term and longer term
- 2 viability of the model; and
- 3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Management report its findings and
- 4 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
- 5 the Sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly.