

Sixty-fifth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**ENGROSSED SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 4003**

Introduced by

Senator Wardner

1 A concurrent resolution requesting the Legislative Management to study the current juvenile
2 justice process, levels of collaboration among various service systems, implementation of
3 dispositional alternatives, and methods for improving outcomes for juveniles involved in the
4 process.

5 **WHEREAS**, within the judicial branch, the juvenile court system is responsible for the
6 adjudication and disposition of allegations that a juvenile is deprived, unruly, or has committed a
7 delinquent act; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in addition to the juvenile court process, other entities are involved in
9 addressing juvenile justice issues, including the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
10 through the Division of Juvenile Services, the Department of Human Services, the Commission
11 on Legal Counsel for Indigent Defense, regional human service centers, K-12 public schools,
12 and a wide variety of treatment providers; and

13 **WHEREAS**, an effective resolution of juvenile justice issues must address recidivism,
14 improve service access, efficiently use system resources, and collaborate with other service
15 systems to identify the spectrum of needs of a juvenile involved in the system; and

16 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota is in the midst of a Justice Reinvestment Initiative in the adult
17 justice system which began two years ago, has resulted in the passage of landmark legislation,
18 and will continue into the next biennium; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the current juvenile justice process has not been reviewed in almost thirty
20 years; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the current process poses concerns for ensuring the most effective use of
22 probation services, access to adequate support services, the potential for unwarranted
23 institutional placements, and the need to distinguish between deprived juveniles and unruly and
24 delinquent juveniles with respect to dispositions and service access.

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

3 That the Legislative Management consider studying the current juvenile justice process, the
4 appropriate age when a juvenile is considered capable of committing a criminal offense, levels
5 of collaboration among various service systems, implementation of dispositional alternatives,
6 and methods for improving outcomes for juveniles involved in the process; and

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Management report its findings and
8 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
9 the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly.