

Introduced by

Senators Oban, Grabinger, Mathern, Robinson

Representatives Boschee, Hanson

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress and the President of the United States to pass the
2 Butch Lewis Act.

3 **WHEREAS**, the central states pension fund is a multiemployer fund that covers a range of
4 fields, including thousands of North Dakota workers and retirees in the trucking, United Parcel
5 Service package delivery, and grocery supply industries; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the United States Treasury Department is considering options to address the
7 shortfall in the plan, including cutting the retirees' benefits to remain financially viable; and

8 **WHEREAS**, to address this crisis, the Butch Lewis Act, S. 2147, was introduced in the
9 United States Senate on November 16, 2017, and the United States House of Representatives
10 companion, H.R. 4444, the Rehabilitation for Multiemployer Pensions Act, was introduced on
11 the same day; and

12 **WHEREAS**, without action from Congress, almost 2,000 North Dakotans and up to 400,000
13 participants across the United States who paid into the central state pension fund, along with
14 1.5 million retirees nationwide who are part of various pension funds, will see their pensions
15 drastically cut; and

16 **WHEREAS**, through no fault of the men and women who have contributed to their pension
17 plan, these pensioners face up to a 60 percent reduction in their pensions; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in many cases, this pension is the main source of income for these retirees
19 and many are too old or disabled to return to the workforce after decades of physically
20 demanding work, leaving them with nowhere to turn to replace this lost income; and

21 **WHEREAS**, this legislation should be reintroduced in the 116th session of Congress;

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

24 That the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly urges Congress and the President of the United
25 States to pass the Butch Lewis Act; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution
2 to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of
3 the United States Senate, and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.