

Introduced by

Representatives Satrom, Ostlie, Skroch

Senators Conley, Larson, Myrdal

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying fetal alcohol
2 spectrum disorders (FASDs), including treatment, services available, potential prevention, and
3 whether existing policies are appropriate.

4 **WHEREAS**, FASDs are a group of conditions, including fetal alcohol syndrome, which can
5 occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy and which may include
6 physical problems and problems with behavior and learning; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in 1993, the Legislative Assembly created the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Center
8 at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Center publishes an annual report on the status of
10 FASDs in the state; and

11 **WHEREAS**, although the prevalence of FASDs is 1 to 5 percent of live births in North
12 Dakota, only 5 to 15 percent will be diagnosed with FASDs; and

13 **WHEREAS**, there is an increased cost of medical care services for a child with FASDs, with
14 an annual excess cost for medical care due to FASDs of \$4,403 per case, and the cost of
15 inpatient medical care for each case of FASDs to age 18 being \$95,034; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in addition to medical care, the cost to a family to care for a child with FASDs is
17 \$17,400 per year, including expenses for travel, meals and lodging, insurance deductibles,
18 vacation and sick leave, child care, work-related costs, and deferred promotions; and

19 **WHEREAS**, although prenatal alcohol exposure often occurs with other substance abuse
20 and often is not detected, of all the substances of abuse, alcohol produces by far the most
21 serious adverse effects for the fetus; and

22 **WHEREAS**, if a woman has a child with FASDs and continues to drink, the woman has
23 more than a 75 percent chance of having another child with FASDs;

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

- 1 That the Legislative Management consider studying FASDs, including treatment, services
2 available, potential prevention, and whether existing policies are appropriate; 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-eighth Legislative Assembly.