

Sixty-seventh
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**ENGROSSED HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 3011**

Introduced by

Representatives Satrom, Ostlie, Skroch

Senators Conley, Larson, Myrdal

1 | A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying and
2 | researching the impact of substance abuse and neonatal withdrawal syndrome, including a
3 | focus on fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs), including treatment, services available,
4 | potential prevention, and whether existing policies for children and adults are appropriate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 That the Legislative Management consider studying and researching the impact of
4 substance abuse and neonatal withdrawal syndrome, including a focus on FASDs, including
5 treatment, services available, potential prevention, and whether existing policies for children
6 and adults are appropriate; 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,
9 incorporating the task force on substance exposed newborns recommendations as a result of
10 2015 Senate Bill No. 2367, as approved by the sixty-fourth legislative assembly, to the Sixty-
11 eighth Legislative Assembly.