

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.