

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3033

Introduced by

Representatives Thoreson, Boschee, N. Johnson, Kasper, Maragos, J. Nelson, M. Nelson
Senators Dever, Laffen, Larsen, O'Connell

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to study opportunities to reduce
2 the risk of death and disease among smokers who will not quit smoking, by considering tobacco
3 harm reduction strategies that encourage smokers to switch from cigarettes to less risky
4 tobacco products and by accurately informing the public of the health risks posed by smokeless
5 tobacco products, vapor products, and tobacco-derived products relative to cigarettes.

6 **WHEREAS**, historically, the state has pursued policies intended to encourage residents
7 who smoke to quit smoking and to discourage residents who do not smoke from starting to
8 smoke; and

9 **WHEREAS**, although cigarette smoking rates have experienced a substantial decline over
10 the past four decades, the rate of decline has slowed in recent years; and

11 **WHEREAS**, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control, just over eighteen
12 percent of North Dakota's adult population are cigarette smokers; and

13 **WHEREAS**, numerous public health organizations, such as the Institute of Medicine, the
14 American Council on Science and Health, the Royal College of Physicians, and the World
15 Health Organization have recognized that there is a continuum of risk among tobacco product
16 types and that the risks associated with cigarette use are substantially higher than the risks
17 associated with the use of smokeless tobacco; and

18 **WHEREAS**, although abstaining from all tobacco use is clearly the best and most effective
19 way for smokers to reduce their risk of disease and premature death, it is appropriate to
20 consider whether those who will not abstain can substantially reduce their risk of disease and
21 premature death by switching from cigarettes to tobacco products that present less risk; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the state of North Dakota should offer complete and accurate information to
23 tobacco users on the health risks posed by smokeless tobacco products, tobacco-derived
24 products, and vapor products relative to cigarette smoking;

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

3 That the Legislative Management study opportunities to reduce the risk of death and
4 disease among smokers who will not quit smoking, by considering tobacco harm reduction
5 strategies that encourage smokers to switch from cigarettes to less-risky tobacco products and
6 by accurately informing the public of the health risks posed by smokeless tobacco products,
7 vapor products, and tobacco-derived products relative to cigarettes; and

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