

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4019

Introduced by

Senators Boschee, Axtman

Representatives Richter, Schreiber-Beck

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying reading and
2 mathematics proficiency rates among students in the state with disabilities and the effectiveness
3 of current educational policies, programs, and resource allocations in addressing any
4 disparities.

5 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota recognizes the importance of providing equitable and sufficient
6 funding to meet the needs of students requiring special education services; and

7 **WHEREAS**, over the past 40 years, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1990
8 [20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.] has ensured children with disabilities have the right to a free,
9 appropriate public education and has significantly expanded access to education for millions of
10 students, reduced discriminatory practices, and established critical frameworks for
11 individualized learning plans and inclusion in general education settings; and

12 **WHEREAS**, approximately 16 percent of the student population in the state has been
13 identified as having disabilities and receiving special education services; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the North Dakota Kindergarten through Grade Twelve Education Coordination
15 Council has established the goal to reduce the disparity in achievement for students with
16 disabilities, students in poverty, and Native American students; and

17 **WHEREAS**, transparency and accessibility for parents to review and understand their
18 child's special education services and contracts are essential for fostering trust and ensuring
19 quality education;

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

22 That the Legislative Management consider studying reading and mathematics proficiency
23 rates among students in the state with disabilities and the effectiveness of current educational
24 policies, programs, and resource allocations in addressing any disparities; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the study include an examination of academic disparities,
2 analyzing the latest student performance data on statewide reading and mathematics
3 assessments to identify trends and disparities affecting students with disabilities and comparing
4 the subgroup performance to overall state proficiency rates; and

5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the study include an identification of contributing factors,
6 evaluating systemic barriers contributing to low proficiency rates, including insufficient funding
7 for special education services, limited access to trained teachers and support staff, geographic
8 disparities between rural and urban areas, and accessibility of evidence-based curriculum and
9 instructional strategies; and

10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the study include an assessment of existing policies and
11 programs, reviewing the implementation and impact of current state and federally funded
12 programs and identifying gaps in policy, funding, and program effectiveness; and

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the study include the engagement of stakeholders, soliciting
14 input from parents and families of students with disabilities to ensure parent involvement in
15 decisionmaking, educators, school administrators, special education professionals, and
16 advocacy groups focused on disability rights; and

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the study include research of best practices, examining
18 successful models and initiatives in states that have effectively reduced proficiency disparities
19 and exploring innovative approaches in early literacy, numeracy, and equitable education
20 practices; and

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the study include consideration of actionable policy and
22 funding recommendations aimed at reducing proficiency disparities, expanding access to high-
23 quality, evidence-based educational programs, enhancing transparency in costs and resource
24 allocation, and improving accountability and data transparency; and

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Management report its findings and
26 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
27 the Seventieth Legislative Assembly.