A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to study the use of open textbooks in the North Dakota University System, including options to develop partnerships with other states to use open textbooks.

WHEREAS, a North Dakota University System student pays an estimated average of $1,100 per year for academic course textbooks; and

WHEREAS, high textbook costs create a financial burden for students to attend a higher education institution which may limit student access to higher education; and

WHEREAS, open textbooks are published under a license that enables students to obtain free or low-cost versions of electronic or printed academic textbooks; and

WHEREAS, the use of open textbooks can significantly reduce higher education costs for students which increases student access to higher education; and

WHEREAS, the use of open textbooks among all North Dakota University System institutions and other states’ higher education systems for common core courses may result in efficiencies reducing state costs related to higher education;

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

That the Legislative Management study the use of open textbooks in the North Dakota University System, including options to develop partnerships with other states to use open textbooks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Management report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly.
Filed in this office this __________ day of _______________________________________, 2013, at ________ o’clock ________ M.

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Secretary of State