

Introduced by

Representatives Buffalo, Sanford, Schneider, Zubke

Senator Mathern

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying the
2 prevalence of bias-motivated crimes committed in North Dakota on the basis of actual or
3 perceived race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, national
4 origin, or ancestry.

5 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota had high occurrences of bias-motivated crimes, ranking second
6 with the most per capita in 2012, 2014, and 2015; and

7 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota reported a five-year low of eight bias-motivated criminal offenses
8 in 2016, which had a three percent participation rate amongst North Dakota law enforcement
9 agencies in the hate crime statistics reporting program; and

10 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota reported seven bias-motivated criminal offenses occurring in
11 Fargo in 2017 which were uncouned in the bias-motivated crime statistics reporting program;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota had 15 bias-motivated crimes reported in 2017, eight of which
14 were motivated by the victims' race, five by religion, and two by sexual orientation; and

15 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota is one of five states without a bias-motivated criminal statute;

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

18 That the Legislative Management consider studying the prevalence of bias-motivated
19 crimes committed in North Dakota on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion,
20 gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or ancestry; and

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the study must include information on the limitations of
22 existing bias-motivated crime data and the reasons for the limitations, an assessment of bias-
23 motivated crime state laws and related federal laws, and an examination of the extent law
24 enforcement officers are trained on identifying, investigating, and reporting bias-motivated
25 crimes; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the study must address whether law enforcement agencies
2 throughout the state are required to report bias-motivated crime data to the state and the
3 Federal Bureau of Investigation for inclusion in the annual bias-motivated crime statistics report
4 along with the protected characteristics for which the data currently is collected and transmitted;
5 and

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the study must include the number and percentage of law
7 enforcement agencies in the state which collect and report bias-motivated crime data; and

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the study must assess how many accredited police
9 departments versus non-accredited police departments there are in the state and evaluate and
10 compare the required training standards between the two types of departments; and

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the study must examine the prosecution rates for bias-
12 motivated crimes in North Dakota; and

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the study must include consultation with the Attorney
14 General, local law enforcement agencies, and nongovernmental organizations working to
15 address the issue of bias-motivated crimes in North Dakota; and

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Management report its findings and
17 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
18 the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly.