

Introduced by

Senators Heckaman, Dotzenrod, Piepkorn

Representatives Dobervich, Hogan, Mock

1 A concurrent resolution requesting the Legislative Management to consider studying the
2 formation of an independent, nonpartisan redistricting commission for the decennial redrawing
3 of legislative district boundaries in North Dakota.

4 **WHEREAS**, the United States Supreme Court in the 1960s handed down a series of
5 decisions, including *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533 (1964), establishing the one person, one
6 vote principle;

7 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota voters deserve a fair, accurate, transparent, and impartial
8 process for the decennial redrawing of legislative district boundaries; and

9 **WHEREAS**, throughout the country, including in North Dakota, the redrawing of legislative
10 district boundaries often has resulted in gerrymandered districts in which boundaries are
11 established with the purpose of giving a political advantage to one party or another; and

12 **WHEREAS**, a total of 23 states have established nonlegislative, nonpartisan redistricting
13 commissions, which are either primarily responsible for redrawing district lines or which serve in
14 an advisory capacity for the redistricting process; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the formation of an independent, nonpartisan redistricting commission would
16 help remove the political incentives that result in gerrymandered districts, and help ensure a fair,
17 accurate, transparent, and impartial redistricting process; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the formation of an independent, nonpartisan redistricting commission also
19 would help ensure the redistricting process more fully respects the various political subdivisions,
20 localities, and communities in our state;

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

23 That the Legislative Management consider studying the formation of an independent,
24 nonpartisan redistricting commission for the decennial redrawing of legislative district
25 boundaries in North Dakota; and

- 1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Management report its findings and
- 2 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
- 3 the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly.