

**Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Thursday, January 3, 2019**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4013
(Senators Dotzenrod, Kannianen, Klein, Vedaa)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying the distribution and transportation of food in the state necessary to the lives of individuals in rural communities, and the roles of state entities in facilitating the movement of food to rural areas of the state.

WHEREAS, since 2013, North Dakota has lost 15 percent of its grocery stores in towns with populations of fewer than 2,100 people; and

WHEREAS, small profit margins in the grocery store business make it difficult for store owners to keep up with building and infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, a considerable number of the state's population drive more than 10 miles to reach a grocery store that offers fresh milk, bread, meat, fruits, and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, there is a strong negative correlation between the distance people drive for food and those people's health; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Rural Grocery Initiative task force is studying the financial feasibility of collaborative purchasing, aggregation, and public-private partnerships to make the best use of existing infrastructure to improve the access, affordability, and variety of food in rural locations in the state; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative the state examines the law regarding the regulation, inspection, and health requirements that restrict some foods to limited distribution channels;

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

That the Legislative Management consider studying the distribution and transportation of food in the state necessary to the lives of individuals in rural communities, and the roles of state entities in facilitating the movement of food to rural areas of the state; 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-seventh Legislative Assembly.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2019,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State