Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2015

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4006
(Senators Mathern, Dever, Armstrong)
(Representatives Steiner, Mooney, J. Nelson)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to study the impact of the marriage penalty within the supplemental security income program and the impact of the marriage penalty on retirement benefits under the Social Security Act and encouraging the North Dakota Congressional Delegation to address the impact within the Social Security laws.

WHEREAS, supplemental security income rescues from poverty over 7,650 low-income individuals with disabilities in this state; and

WHEREAS, many older residents depend on social security benefits for retirement income; and

WHEREAS, the income of a recipient's spouse is considered in calculating the benefits for a recipient; and

WHEREAS, benefits for a married couple, both of whom receive supplemental security income and have no other income, are 25 percent less than the total they would receive if they were living together but not as husband and wife; and

WHEREAS, social security benefits may be reduced for married couples; and

WHEREAS, such circumstances provide a financial incentive for some retired individuals and individuals with disabilities to forgo marriage; and

WHEREAS, this state supports family values and the sanctity of marriage; and

WHEREAS, an examination should be made of the impact that the marriage penalty has within the supplemental security income program and the social security program; the number of residents affected by the marriage penalty; the impact of the marriage penalty on housing affordability; the ability of married recipients in this state to meet their basic needs; whether the marriage penalty holds married recipients below the poverty level in this state; and the manner in which other states address the impact of the marriage penalty;

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

That the Legislative Management study the impact of the marriage penalty within the supplemental security income program and the impact of the marriage penalty on retirement benefits under the Social Security Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Legislative Management report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation to implement the recommendations, to the Sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation and that the Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly encourages members of the Congressional Delegation to address this issue within the Social Security laws.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Filed in this office this 7th day of April, 2015,

at 10:08 o'clock A. M.

Secretary of State