

SOUTH DAKOTA COUNSELING ASSOCIATION
Week 1 Legislative Report – 2023
January 14, 2023

We are off and running and Week 1 was fairly mundane. We had the State of the State Address, State of the Judiciary, and State of the Tribes. Committees did organizational meetings or heard from individuals in state government about their agency. A few started hearings on the summer study bills but not many legislator bills are filed yet. Appropriations Committee is hearing from departments on their budget requests. Most of the time everyone is meeting the new legislators and talking about potential bills. All bills must be filed by February 1.

There is new leadership in the House and Senate, and it appears to be much better as far as communication and working together.

The major issues will be funding/budget as there is quite a bit of money to spend, prison issues, nursing home issues, mental health issues, Juvenile Justice reforms, education/state employees/providers increase proposed by Governor at 5% (definitely not enough), tax cuts such as cutting the sales tax on groceries, eliminating \$100,000 from the owner-occupied property tax, removal of the Partridge amendment that raised money from remote sales tax for education funding – (all of the tax cuts will hurt education funding unless they find ongoing additional revenue to replace the funding), marijuana bills, and many more issues. People expect around 500 bills to be filed so we will definitely be busy.

SENATE BILLS

SB2 – Bill to require DOC to report on abuse and neglect in private facilities – passed com and Senate on consent

SB 3 – Require local law enforcement to give notice to school personnel on violations of drug, alcohol, and violence by students

SB 4 – Modifies a court's authority to commit a habitual juvenile offender to DOC – this is the issue of 3 violations within a 6 month period

SB 5 – Juvenile Justice Oversight Council extended to 2031 and increased education membership to 2 people

SB 6 – Community Resource Team alternative programs for chins and getting involved earlier in the process – passed committee and Senate on consent

SB 8 – Fee increases for licenses for addiction and prevention services professionals

SB 10 – Expand certification options for deaf interpreters

SB 24 – Levy bill for 2024 budget – will be heard toward end of session

SB 39 – Combine the Professional Practice Boards for teachers and administrators into one board – Dept of Educ bill

SB 57 – Revise/clarify eligibility of alternative instruction students in activities – needs to pass as there is confusion on open enrollment, home school educating for activities

SB 59 – Bill creating a grant program in DOE for CTE infrastructure projects – currently \$1.00 but will change once budget discussions begin

HOUSE BILLS

HB 1043 – Bill to cut \$100,000 from the owner-occupied property taxes

HB 1044 – Bill to increase scholarships for people entering the behavioral health field and remaining in the state

HB 1055 – Bill to increase Opportunity Scholarships for students

HB 1070 – Creating a Center for American Exceptionalism at Black Hills State University to get involved in civics/social studies – problem here as we have State Board of Educational Standards that decide curriculum

HCR 6001 – Resolution to look at another pathway for students who can't get the graduation requirements – task force to study this issue

There will be some bills introduced dealing with child abuse/grooming/rape and will report on them when they are filed.

We are off on Monday. Have a good week and let Rebecca know if you have any questions or concerns!