

SOUTH DAKOTA COUNSELING ASSOCIATION
Week 2 Legislative Report
January 22, 2023

Week 2 brought more activity to the legislature with bills being filed and committee hearings held. This coming week will be hectic with many more bills being introduced. Last week the big issue was SB 41 – the funding for low income housing (bill passed last year but not implemented) will be debated on House floor again on Monday – has already passed the Senate. Many of the tax cutting bills were also introduced and will be around most of the session until the budget is decided. Juvenile Justice bills are starting through the process, and you need to pay attention to what is decided in this area – education lobbyists will be proposing some amendments to further enhance the law. Continue to talk to the legislators about the need for more than the 5% funding for education and why we need much more – in the range of 8-10%.

SENATE BILLS

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

SB 3 – Require local law enforcement to give notice to school personnel on violations of drug, alcohol, and violence by students – hearing on 1/24

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 – education lobbyists are proposing an amendment to extend the time limit to 1 year. Hearing on 1/26

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

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

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

SB 10 – Expand certification options for deaf interpreters – passed Senate on consent

SB 24 – Levy bill for 2024 budget – will be heard toward end of session – bill was sent to Joint Appropriations to be parked until later

SB 39 – Combine the Professional Practice Boards for teachers and administrators into one board – Dept of Educ bill – bill is being discussed for changes – keeping hearing confidential until decision is made, number on the board and why this change is necessary – will be heard at later time

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 – working on amendment

SB 59 – Bill creating a grant program in DOE for CTE infrastructure projects – currently \$1.00 but will change once budget discussions begin – hearing on 1/24 and will be sent to Appropriations if it passed

SB 65 – Modify the compulsory age for school attendance – dropping it from 18 to 16 – bill will be held for a time as discussions are being held with education groups.

SB 70 – Revise provisions relating to courtroom modifications for child witnesses

SB 75 – Revise provisions related to parental support for expenses related to pregnancy and childbirth

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 – bill will be heard in a committee for policy changes and then go to the Appropriations Committee

HB 1055 – Bill to increase Opportunity Scholarships for students – bill received policy support in committee and now is in Joint Appropriations

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 and don't need another entity getting involved – hearing on Monday 1/23 in House Education

HB 1080 – transgender bill – prohibits certain medical and surgical interventions on minor patients – wants to punish medical personnel who help transgender kids

HB 1087 – Prohibit restrictive employment contracts involving mental health professionals and counselors – hearing on Monday in House Commerce – supposedly it does not affect education people but there is an amendment adding categories – this is the non-compete issue

HB 1095 and HB 1096 – Both deal with lowering the sales tax on food on a step down process – either 2.5% or 3.5 %

HB 1097 – Revise the definition of an abused or neglected child – deals with exposing the child to marijuana and charging the parents

HCR 6001 – Resolution to look at another pathway for students who can't get the graduation requirements – task force to study this issue – passed House 67-2

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

Have a great week!