

JANUARY 22, 2010

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

By Richard Howard

Action continued to be rather slow this week. Committee and floor action was taken on a few bills, mainly agency and summer study bills. To date only 204 bills (115 in the House and 89 in the Senate) have been introduced. Discussions on the budget shortfall seem to dominate. Two bills have been introduced (HB 1099 and SB 78) that propose to make modifications to the property tax cap. They are being analyzed to see how they may impact townships. SDATAT's bills will be introduced early next week - most sponsors have been secured. Senate Transportation Committee action on SB 1 has been scheduled, as is discussed below in Legislative Alert #2.

LEGISLATIVE ALERT #2

SB 1 (the highway funding bill that would increase vehicle registration fees to provide additional revenue to townships, counties and cities for use on roads and bridges) has been scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee starting next Wednesday, January 27, 2010 (7:45 AM) Rm. 424 and continuing the following Monday, February 1, 2010. SO, the time to CONTACT your SENATOR is NOW. They need to hear from as many of Township supervisors as possible, as well as many concerned citizens that you have talked to. Contact with Committee members is extremely important. The Transportation Committee members consist of the following Senators: Republicans: Vehle, Schmidt, Frylie, Howie and Democrats: Gary Hanson, Kloucek, and Maher. Also, we need to have as large a presence as possible at the Hearing on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2010. This will be coordinated

through the office and lobbyist. If you plan on attending- please contact the office at 605) 353-1439 or the Administrative Director at (605) 354-2799.

There is also speculation that the gas tax may be lowered from 5 cents down to there 3 cents. I don't know what other changes may be considered. I want to clarify that the table included in the last newsletter was based on the full cost of the proposed registration fees, when, in fact, most would be reduced by 30% for example, the 2012 cost for an 80,000 pound truck would be \$560 not \$800. Over 85% of all non-commercial gross vehicles are 10 years or older. It should also be noted that older commercial vehicles get only a 10% reduction.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to call the office at 605 353-1439 or call me- Dick Howard, SDATAT Lobbyist at (605) 222-7700.

Now is time for teamwork.

SDATAT Legislative Day is Thursday, February 11, 2010. We will be serving ice cream sundaes to the legislators between 2 and 3:30 pm. The SDATAT board will convene at 4:30 pm at the Cattlemen's Club east of Pierre. We will have a no host dinner and will have several guests, legislators and others to inform us on current issues. Please contact our office at 605 353-1439 if you plan on attending. There is a block of rooms at the Kings Inn, 224- 5951, hurry before they are gone.

In addition to contacting your legislator when they are at home, you may contact them in Pierre by e-mail, telephone or letter. Addresses and phone numbers are provided below.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION	
To Track Legislation	http://legis.state.sd.us
Contact legislators	
Email	http://legis.state.sd.us/email/legislatoremail.aspx
	Select legislator's name from drop down box
Write	Senator or Representative 500 E Capitol Ave Pierre SD 57501
Fax a Message (to a specific legislator)	605 773 6806
Call	
Senate Lobby	605 773 3821
House Lobby	605 773 3851
To contact the SDATAT Lobbyist call	
Lobbyist Desk	605 224 5030
Cell	605 354 2799
Hotel	605 224 5951

If you are receiving this letter via postal service and have access to email, please let us know by calling 605 353-1439. You will get the letter in a timelier manner and you will save the association money.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

- 11 SDATAT Legislative Day
- 16 McCook Co Township Mtg. 1:30pm-Courthouse, Salem
- 16 Hamlin Co Township Meeting 1:30 pm-Courthouse, Hayti, SD
- 18 Charles Mix Co Township Mtg 12:30 pm- 4-H Bld., Lake Andes
- 19 Sanborn Township Mtg 2 pm-4H Bldg Forestburg, SD
- 23 **Township Year-end Meeting (Required by law SDCL 8-5-1)**

March

- 1 SDATAT Membership payments due
- 2 **Township Annual Meetings (Required by law SDCL 8-3-1)**
- 5 Spink County Township Mtg. 1 pm Courthouse, Redfield, SD
- 11 **Deadline for property assessment appeals**
- 15 **Local Boards of Equalization Meet SDCL 10-11-13**
- 30 **Township Board of Supervisor Mtg. SDCL 8-5-1**