



SDATAT's LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

February 11, 2011

Spring #4

Legislative Notes

86th Legislative Session

By Richard Howard

The Legislature has now completed five weeks (20 Legislative Days) and the session is slightly more than half over. Next week is the final week for Committees in the House of Origin to move bills to the floor (by Feb. 17). The final day to pass the House of Origin is February 23rd.

SDATAT Legislative Day at the Capitol was a success as Board members dished out over 16 gallons of SDSU ice cream for sundaes. The meeting of the Board members and the Governor was informative and friendly as members discussed issues of importance to townships and small towns - mainly transportation needs for rural economic development and increased funding for local government roads and bridges.

However, the highlight of the week was approval of HB 1192 – (the bill that would increase license plate fees to provide funding for local gov't roads) by the House Transportation Committee on Feb. 10 by a vote of 11 to 1, as discussed further in the article below:

THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all of the Board Members that came to Pierre on Wednesday and Thursday to testify at Committee Hearings, to talk to your Legislators and to just be present to show your support for needed funding for roads and bridges (HB 1192). You did a GREAT job and MADE A DIFFERENCE. A Committee vote of 11-1 was awesome!



ALERT

Now the REAL TASK begins with only a short time to do it. We must get at least 47 votes (2/3 majority) on the House floor. It is expected that HB 1192 will be scheduled for floor action on TUESDAY, FEB. 14, so time is of the essence. I would like to see as many Board Members and other Township Supervisors as possible in Pierre on Tuesday to help with passage of this badly needed bill.

You can help by:

1) Personally talking to your Legislators (the House Floor is open to visitors from 8:00 to 11:00 AM) and ask for their support on HB 1192.

2) If you can't find them to talk (they may be in Committee meetings), you

can leave a message on their desk advising that you are in Pierre and ask for their support.

3) Be present in the House Gallery when the Session begins at 2:00 PM to be introduced as a Group to show your support.

Gail Brock and I will be available to provide assistance and answer your questions.

I know a lot of you can't make it to Pierre on Tuesday, but you can still HELP by contacting your Legislators and asking for their support:

1) The BEST way is to talk to them when they are home this weekend (many will have cracker barrel sessions Saturday) - and tell them the conditions of your roads and why your Township needs additional funding to repair and maintain them. If you can't personally visit with them - call them at home.

2) E-mail them before Tuesday noon.

3) Send a letter to them and mail it by Sat. or Mon; mailing it to their Legislative address.

4) Call their Legislative number and leave a message before noon on Tuesday.

In addition, talk to friends, neighbors and other Board members and ask them to do one of the above actions. Legislators definitely want to hear from their

constituents as they make their decisions on how to vote on a bill, so YOU can MAKE a DIFFERENCE. It is important for Townships to stick together on this issue. As you recall, the SDATAT membership passed a Resolution of Support for increased highway funding at the Annual Meeting in December 2010.

Therefore, it is important that you look at this issue as a "Township Board Supervisor", not just as an individual.

We are the closest we have been for a long time in getting badly needed funding for roads and bridges. If we ALL WORK TOGETHER we can SUCCEED. If you have any questions or comments, Please feel free to contact me at (605) 224-8503 or (605) 222-7700. Thank you very much for your assistance.

Dick Howard

Status of SDATAT's other bills:

HB 1109 – Definition of township roads - was killed in House Local Government Committee on Feb. 8 at SDATAT request. We requested the bill be killed due to opposition from Minnehaha County and concerns of our Attorney on initial and proposed language in the bill. Based on recommendation of our Attorney we agreed to delay action until next session.

HB 1128 - Wind Energy Tax Distribution - is scheduled for a hearing in House Taxation Committee on Feb. 15. Henning Hansen and Richland Township met with the Brookings County Commissioners on Feb. 8 to discuss funding and cooperation in maintaining and plowing snow on

township roads within the wind energy project area, and it is likely that the bill will not be needed to resolve this local issue.

OTHERS BILLS TO MONITOR:

HB 1193 – (An Act to clarify certain statutes prohibiting political subdivisions from restricting firearms.) I testified against this bill along with SDACC and the Municipal League. The bill was killed in House Local Government Committee.

HB 1212 –Increase wheel tax up to 18 wheels. - I prepared an amendment to this bill which would have required counties to allocate 15% of any new wheel tax to townships and 5% to cities. The bill was killed in Committee because of concerns on raising the wheel tax payments on 18 wheelers.

HB 1215 – Repeals refunds for gas tax for non-highway agricultural use. - This bill was amended in the House Transportation Committee so \$700,000 of this fund would go to counties and townships for road maintenance with 40% going to townships and 60% to counties. The bill also provides funding for a number of agriculture programs, including the value-added agriculture development program, the conservation commission erosion control program, and the Northern Crops Institute. I testified in favor of the bill since it provides funding for township roads.

SB 99 - This bill would extend the age of vehicles from 5 years to 10 years to receive the 30% reduction in vehicle registration fees. I testified in favor of this

bill as it will increase funding for local government roads by \$4.8 million dollars per year. It passed the Senate on Feb. 10 by a vote of 32-3.

SB 177 - to increase motor vehicle registration fees, as well as gas tax and vehicle excise tax was killed in Senate Transportation Committee on Feb. 9 at the request of the prime sponsor, Sen. Vehle, as he didn't feel there was sufficient support in the Senate to pass it. Cindy Foster, Rodney Stormo, Dan Thyen, Jim Puffer and Dick Howard testified in favor of the bill.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

To Track Legislation

<http://legis.state.sd.us>

Contact legislators

Email:

<http://legis.state.sd.us/email/legislaturemail.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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Feb 11th –

McCook Co Annual Mtg - 1:30 - Courthouse,
Salem

Sanborn Co Annual Mtg - 1:30 - 4-H Bldg,
Forestburg

Feb 15 –

Hamlin Co Annual Mtg - 1:30
at the Hayti Courthouse - 3rd Floor
Courtroom

Douglas Co Annual Mtg - 1:00 - Armour
Courthouse Community Rm

Beadle Co Annual Mtg - 1:00 at the
Beadle Co Courthouse, Large court
room, third floor

Feb 16 –

Perkins Co Annual Twp Mtg - Noon lunch
- Bison

Feb 22 –

Required Twp Mtgs (SDCL 8-5-1)

MARCH:

March 1st –

***1st Tues in March - Required Annual Twp
Meetings (SDCL 3-1-11)***

March 3rd –

Brookings Co Annual Mtg - 1 p.m. –
Swiftel Center

March 10 –

**Union Co Annual Mtg - 1:30 p.m. - Elk
Point**

March 11 –

Spink Co Annual Mtg - 1 p.m. –
Courthouse, Redfield

March 17 –

***Deadline for property assessment
appeals - Appeals must be in
writing. (SDCL 10-11-16)***

March 21 –

***Local Board of Equalization Meet (SDCL
10-11-13)***

March 29 –

Required Twp Meetings (SDCL 8-5-1)

Brought to you by:

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