

JANUARY 29, 2010

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

By Richard Howard

Even though the Legislative week got off to a late start on Monday due to bad weather and road conditions- action picked up considerably this week as many bills were introduced and Committees were working with full agendas. The House and Senate both convened at about 4:30 pm on Monday and adjourned a short time later.

As of today, 475 bills have been introduced (216 in the House and 159 in the Senate) - compared to 204 at the end of last week. The final day for bill introduction is Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010. During the final 3 days, each legislator is limited to 1 bill per day. It is expected that there will not be many more bills introduced, thus ending with a lower than normal bill count.

The major activity of the week was the Senate Transportation Committee hearing on SB 1 on Wed., Jan. 27, 2010. SDATAT was actively involved in providing testimony on SB 1 as three board members: Cindy Foster, Jim Puffer and Rodney Stormo, along with Dick Howard, testified. Our SDATAT Board members did a good job of identifying township needs and township support for SB 1. Local government highway needs were explained very well with a representation from eight (8) county highway superintendants and a county commissioner, all testifying. The Committee took a full two hours of testimony and is scheduled to take additional testimony on Feb. 1, 2010. It is likely that the Committee will take action on the bill at that time.

The following three (3) SDATAT bills were introduced during the week:

HB 1147 - An Act to permit townships to provide certain health, life and disability income insurance plans (Scheduled for a hearing in House Commerce Committee on Feb. 1)

HB 1166 - Clarify the locations where the local boards of equalization may meet, giving the decision to the board as to where.

SB 130 - An Act to revise certain provisions concerning the township road system.

Other bills of interest that were also introduced were:

HB 1046 - An Act to revise certain provisions for the procurement of goods and services for governmental agencies.

HB 1093 - An Act to revise the open meeting requirement to permit the use of teleconferencing for rule-making and other purposes.

HB 1099 - An Act to permit taxing districts to revise the base amount of revenue payable from property taxes. This has already passed through committee and will now go to the floor for debate and vote.

HB 1113 - An Act to specify certain animal species for animal damage control. SDATAT is asking that muskrats be added to this list.

HB 1128 - An Act to revise certain provisions concerning fire protection services provided through township funding.

HB 1193 - An Act to allow certain local governments to participate in the state health insurance plan.

HB 1195 - An Act to provide for certain overweight permits during the time of seasonal vehicle weight restrictions.

HB 1214 - An Act to allow for the acquisition of the fee ownership of highway right-of way land for certain local governments.

SB 58 - An Act to revise certain real property taxes for small renewable energy facilities.

SB 78 - An Act to revise the total amount of revenue payable to municipalities from taxes on real property.

SB 104 - An Act to revise certain provisions regarding disclosure of public information and public meetings.

SB 147 - An Act to establish a legislative policy to biannually review the highway needs and adjust the highway user fees.

IT IS STILL CRITICAL TO CONTACT YOUR SENATORS BEFORE MONDAY.

It is expected that action will move quickly during upcoming weeks. If you have any questions or comments on any legislation, please feel free to contact the SDATAT Office at (605) 353-1439 or Dick Howard at (605) 222-7700,

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/legislatoemail.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

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.

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 1:30 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. 1pm- Courthouse, Redfield, SD
- 8 Clay County Township Mtg. 7 pm Public Safety, Vermillion
- 11 **Deadline for property assessment appeals**
- 11 Miner County Township Mtg. 7 pm- Courthouse Basement Howard, SD
- 15 **Local Boards of Equalization Meet SDCL 10-11-13**
- 18 Kingsbury County Township Mtg. at 12 noon, 4 H Bldg. in Desmet, SD
- 30 **Township Board of Supervisor Mtg. SDCL 8-5-1**

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 our news letter in a timelier manner- plus you will save the association money.