

PRESS RELEASE



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Legislature's Executive Board Finalizes Interim Work Plan

PIERRE – The South Dakota Legislature will take a closer look at diverse issues impacting economic development, mental health, electric services in an annexed area, and the consequences of the use of controlled substances through four interim committees and five task forces that will meet this summer. The Executive Board of the SD Legislature announced member appointments to the groups during its April 23, 2019 meeting in Pierre.

Studies will be conducted in the following areas:

- **Industrial Hemp:** including the regulation and cost of implementing an industrial hemp program; economic impacts of producing and selling industrial hemp; cost and challenges for law enforcement; and requirements for registration, licenses, permits, seed certification, and access. **Chair:** Rep. Lee Qualm, **Vice Chair:** Sen. Rocky Blare
- **Special Education:** including the assessment tools used to define disabilities; categories of disabilities; the costs of providing services; and possible funding sources. The committee was authorized by the passage of Senate Bill 3, introduced by 2018's Extraordinary Cost Fund for Special Education Study. **Chair:** Rep. Nancy Rasmussen, **Vice Chair:** Sen. Jim Bolin
- **Electric Services in an Annexed Area:** including the options for municipal utilities to provide electrical services in annexed areas and how electrical rates are established. Senate Bill 66 prompted the formation of the committee. **Chair:** Sen. Alan Solano, **Vice Chair:** Rep. Thomas Brunner
- **Offenses regarding Controlled Substances:** including alternatives to imprisonment for drug offenders; funding sources for treatment services; and efforts to battle methamphetamine addiction. Senate Bill 167 authorized the creation of the committee which will include legislators and non-legislators. The Executive Board expanded the study to include a subcommittee on fighting methamphetamine addiction. **Chair:** Rep. Steven Haugaard, **Vice Chair:** Sen. Craig Kennedy
- **Sustainable improvements to the Continuum of Mental Health Services:** the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution 2 continues the work of the 2018 Access to Mental Health Services Study by creating five task forces to address specific mental health service issues. Each task force includes legislators and non-legislators. **Task Force #1 (Chair:** Rep. Michael Diedrich, **Vice Chair:** Sen. Kris Langer) will redefine acute mental health hospitalizations. **Task Force #2 (Chair:** Sen. Alan Solano, **Vice Chair:** Rep. Erin Healy) will look at how to reduce overall use of acute mental health hospitalizations. The focus of **Task Force #3 (Chair:** Sen. Deb Soholt, **Vice Chair:** Rep. Herman Otten) is how to effectively leverage telehealth and telemedicine services. **Task Force #4 (Chair:** Rep. Jean Hunhoff, **Vice Chair:** Rep. Rebecca Reimer) will redefine nursing home criteria for

persons with organic brain damage. And **Task Force #5 (Chair: Rep. Tim Reed, Vice Chair: Sen. Wayne Steinhauer)** is charged with studying community services and caregiver supports.

Full committee and task force memberships can be viewed on the [LRC website](#) on the [2019 Interim page](#), along with agendas, minutes, and other meeting documents.

Also selected during the April meeting were Programs for Evaluation by the LRC fiscal and program analysts.

The Executive Board members include Representative Steven Haugaard (Chair, R-Sioux Falls), Senator Brock L. Greenfield (Vice Chair, R-Clark), Senator Troy Heinert (Ranking Minority Leader, D-Mission), Representatives Spencer Gosch (R-Glenham), Randy Gross (R-Elkton), Chris Johnson (R-Rapid City), John Mills (R-Volga), Sue Peterson (R-Sioux Falls), Lee Qualm (R-Platte), and Jamie Smith (D-Sioux Falls); and Senators Jim Bolin (R-Canton), Bob Ewing (R-Spearfish), Kris Langer (R-Dell Rapids), Jim Stalzer (R-Sioux Falls), and Jim White (R-Huron).