

PRESS RELEASE



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For further information, contact:

Jason Hancock, Director
SD Legislative Research Council
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-3251

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Cummings Named Code Counsel for Legislative Research Council

PIERRE – Wenzel Cummings, Senior Legislative Attorney for the Legislative Research Council, has been named Code Counsel. The Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council selected Cummings from among several candidates interviewed during its June 10, 2019 meeting in Sioux Falls.

Cummings, a native of Rapid City, South Dakota, joined the LRC in October 2016 as a legislative attorney and attained Senior status in 2018. Prior to joining LRC, he was in private practice with a Colorado law firm and served as a staff attorney with the Virginia Division of Legislative Services.

Rep. Steven G. Haugaard, chair of the Executive Board, says in a field of well-qualified applicants for the position, Cummings' experience and reputation made him a stand-out.

"Wenzel has drafted legislation on many important issues and always provided valuable insight and sound advice to the Legislature. In addition, his leadership on interim study committees and experience with the administrative rules process demonstrates that he has the skills needed to be an effective Code Counsel. We're thankful that he has accepted the position," Haugaard said.

Cummings says he's ready for the challenge.

"This opportunity is both an honor and a privilege. I look forward to continuing my work with the Legislature as Code Counsel," said Cummings.

The Code Counsel provides staff assistance and makes recommendations to the Code Commission regarding South Dakota laws, advises and assists the Legislature in legal research and the preparation of bills, and prepares and indexes the session laws for each legislative session.

Cummings' appointment as Code Counsel became effective June 10, 2019. He replaces Doug Decker, who retired from the position earlier this month.