

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-THIRD SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2008

569P0043

SENATE BILL NO. 153

Introduced by: Senators Smidt (Orville), Olson (Ed), Schmidt (Dennis), and Turbak Berry
and Representatives Tidemann and Kirkeby

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to authorize the Governor to enter the Midwestern Regional
2 Higher Education Compact and to provide for the appointment of resident members to the
3 Midwestern Regional Higher Education Commission.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

5 Section 1. The Governor is hereby authorized and directed to enter the Midwestern Regional
6 Higher Education Compact on behalf of the state of South Dakota with all other states legally
7 joining therein in substantially the following form:

MIDWESTERN REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

ARTICLE I PURPOSE

10 The purpose of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact is to provide greater higher
11 education opportunities and services in the midwestern region, with the aim of furthering
12 regional access to, research in, and choice of higher education for the citizens residing in the
13 several states which are parties to this compact.

ARTICLE II THE COMMISSION

15 The compacting states create the Midwestern Higher Education Commission. The



1 commission shall be a body corporate of each compacting state. The commission shall have all
2 the responsibilities, powers, and duties set forth in this chapter, including the power to sue and
3 be sued, and such additional powers as may be conferred upon it by subsequent action of the
4 respective legislatures of the compacting states in accordance with the terms of this compact.

5 The commission shall consist of five resident members of each state as follows: the
6 governor or the governor's designee, who shall serve during the tenure of office of the governor;
7 two legislators, one from each house (except Nebraska, which may appoint two legislators from
8 its unicameral legislature), who shall serve two-year terms and be appointed by the appropriate
9 appointing authority in each house of the legislature; and two other at-large members, at least
10 one of whom shall be selected from the field of higher education. The at-large members shall
11 be appointed in a manner provided by the laws of the appointing state. One of the two at-large
12 members initially appointed in each state shall serve a two-year term. The other, and any
13 regularly appointed successor to either at-large member, shall serve a four-year term. All
14 vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the laws of the appointed states. Any commissioner
15 appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve until the end of the incomplete term.

16 The commission shall select annually, from among its members, a chairperson, a vice
17 chairperson, and a treasurer.

18 The commission shall appoint an executive director who shall serve at its pleasure and who
19 shall act as secretary to the commission. The treasurer, the executive director, and such other
20 personnel as the commission may determine shall be bonded in such amounts as the commission
21 may require.

22 The commission shall meet at least once each calendar year. The chairperson may call
23 additional meetings and, upon the request of a majority of the commission members of three or
24 more compacting states, shall call additional meetings. Public notice shall be given of all

1 meetings and meetings shall be open to the public.

2 Each compacting state represented at any meeting of the commission is entitled to one vote.

3 A majority of the compacting states shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business,
4 unless a larger quorum is required by the bylaws of the commission.

5 ARTICLE III POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION

6 The commission shall adopt a seal and suitable bylaws governing its management and
7 operations.

8 Irrespective of the civil service, personnel, or other merit system laws of any of the
9 compacting states, the commission in its bylaws shall provide for the personnel policies and
10 programs of the compact.

11 The commission shall submit a budget to the governor and legislature of each compacting
12 state at such time and for such period as may be required. The budget shall contain specific
13 recommendations of the amount or amounts to be appropriated by each of the compacting states.

14 The commission shall report annually to the legislatures and governors of the compacting
15 states, to the Midwestern Governors' Conference, and to the Midwestern Legislative Conference
16 of the Council of State Governments concerning the activities of the commission during the
17 preceding year. Such reports shall also embody any recommendations that may have been
18 adopted by the commission.

19 The commission may borrow, accept, or contract for the services of personnel from any state
20 or the United States or any subdivision or agency, from any interstate agency, or from any
21 institution, foundation, person, firm, or corporation.

22 The commission may accept for any of its purposes and functions under the compact any
23 and all donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services (conditional
24 or otherwise) from any state or the United States or any subdivision or agency thereof, or

1 interstate agency, or from any institution, foundation, person, firm, or corporation, and may
2 receive, utilize, and dispose of the same.

3 The commission may enter into agreements with any other interstate education organizations
4 or agencies and with higher education institutions located in nonmember states and with any of
5 the various states of these United States to provide adequate programs and services in higher
6 education for the citizens of the respective compacting states. The commission shall, after
7 negotiations with interested institutions and interstate organizations or agencies, determine the
8 cost of providing the programs and services in higher education for use of these agreements.

9 The commission may establish and maintain offices, which shall be located within one or
10 more of the compacting states.

11 The commission may establish committees and hire staff as it deems necessary for the
12 carrying out of its functions.

13 The commission may provide for actual and necessary expenses for attendance of its
14 members at official meetings of the commission or its designated committees.

15 ARTICLE IV ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION

16 The commission shall collect data on the long-range effects of the compact on higher
17 education. By the end of the fourth year from the effective date of the compact and every two
18 years thereafter, the commission shall review its accomplishments and make recommendations
19 to the governors and legislatures of the compacting states on the continuance of the compact.

20 The commission shall study issues in higher education of particular concern to the
21 midwestern region. The commission shall also study the needs for higher education programs
22 and services in the compacting states and the resources for meeting such needs. The commission
23 shall from time to time prepare reports on such research for presentation to the governors and
24 legislatures of the compacting states and other interested parties. In conducting such studies, the

1 commission may confer with any national or regional planning body. The commission may
2 redraft and recommend to the governors and legislatures of the various compacting states
3 suggested legislation dealing with problems of higher education.

4 The commission shall study the need for provision of adequate programs and services in
5 higher education, such as undergraduate, graduate, or professional student exchanges in the
6 region. If a need for exchange in a field is apparent, the commission may enter into such
7 agreements with any higher education institution and with any of the compacting states to
8 provide programs and services in higher education for the citizens of the respective compacting
9 states. The commission shall, after negotiations with interested institutions and the compacting
10 states, determine the costs of providing the programs and services in higher education for use
11 in its agreements. The contracting states shall contribute the funds not otherwise provided, as
12 determined by the commission, for carrying out the agreements. The commission may also serve
13 as the administrative and fiscal agent in carrying out agreements for higher education programs
14 and services.

15 The commission shall serve as a clearinghouse on information regarding higher education
16 activities among institutions and agencies.

17 In addition to the activities of the commission previously noted, the commission may
18 provide services and research in other areas of regional concern.

19 ARTICLE V FINANCE

20 The moneys necessary to finance the general operations of the commission, not otherwise
21 provided for, in carrying forth its duties, responsibilities, and powers as stated herein shall be
22 appropriated to the commission by the compacting states, when authorized by the respective
23 legislatures, by equal apportionment among the compacting states.

24 The commission shall not incur any obligations of any kind prior to the making of

1 appropriations adequate to meet the same; nor shall the commission pledge the credit of any of
2 the compacting states, except by and with the authority of the compacting state.

3 The commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts
4 and disbursements of the commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting procedures
5 established under its bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the
6 commission shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant and the report
7 of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the commission.

8 The accounts of the commission shall be open at any reasonable time for inspection by duly
9 authorized representatives of the compacting states and persons authorized by the commission.

10 ARTICLE VI ELIGIBLE PARTIES AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

11 The states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska,
12 North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin shall be eligible to become party to this
13 compact. Additional states will be eligible if approved by a majority of the compacting states.

14 As to any eligible party state, this compact shall become effective when its legislature shall
15 have enacted the same into law.

16 Amendments to the compact shall become effective upon their enactment by the legislatures
17 of all compacting states.

18 ARTICLE VII WITHDRAWAL, DEFAULT, AND TERMINATION

19 Any compacting state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a statute repealing the
20 compact, but such withdrawal shall not become effective until two years after the enactment of
21 such statute. A withdrawing state shall be liable for any obligations which it may have incurred
22 on account of its party status up to the effective date of withdrawal, except that if the
23 withdrawing state has specifically undertaken or committed itself to any performance of an
24 obligation extending beyond the effective date of withdrawal, it shall remain liable to the extent

1 of such obligation.

2 If any compacting state shall at any time default in the performance of any of its obligations,
3 assumed or imposed, in accordance with the provisions of this compact, all rights, privileges,
4 and benefits conferred by this compact or agreements hereunder shall be suspended from the
5 effective date of such default as fixed by the commission, and the commission shall stipulate
6 the conditions and maximum time for compliance under which the defaulting state may resume
7 its regular status. Unless such default shall be remedied under the stipulations and within the
8 time period set forth by the commission, this compact may be terminated with respect to such
9 defaulting state by affirmative vote of a majority of the other member states. Any such
10 defaulting state may be reinstated by performing all acts and obligations as stipulated by the
11 commission.

12 ARTICLE VIII SEVERABILITY AND CONSTRUCTION

13 The provisions of this compact entered into hereunder shall be severable and if any phrase,
14 clause, sentence, or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the Constitution of
15 any compacting state or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government,
16 agency, person, or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and
17 the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance shall not be
18 affected thereby. If this compact entered into hereunder shall be held contrary to the constitution
19 of any compacting state, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining
20 states and in full force and effect as to the state affected as to all severable matters. The
21 provisions of this compact entered into pursuant hereto shall be liberally construed to effectuate
22 the purposes thereof.

23 Section 2. The members of the Midwestern Regional Higher Education Commission
24 representing this state are as follows:

- 1 (1) The Governor or a designee of the Governor who shall serve throughout the
2 Governor's tenure in office;
- 3 (2) One member of the Senate appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative
4 Research Council;
- 5 (3) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Executive Board of
6 the Legislative Research Council;
- 7 (4) One member of the general public from the field of higher education appointed by
8 the executive director of the Board of Regents; and
- 9 (5) One member of the general public from the field of career and technical education
10 appointed by the secretary of the Department of Education.

11 The members of the Legislature appointed to the commission shall each serve a term of two
12 years. The members of the general public appointed to the commission shall each serve a term
13 of four years, except that one of the members of the general public initially appointed shall serve
14 a term of two years.

15 The initial appointments shall be made no later than thirty days after the effective date of
16 this Act. If a vacancy occurs, the remainder of the unexpired term shall be filled in the same
17 manner as the original appointment.