

## THE 2012 LEGISLATURE

The South Dakota Legislature is established by Article III of the Constitution of South Dakota as a bicameral legislative body.

### SESSIONS

Legislative Sessions can run for up to 40 days every year, depending on the legislative calendar set by the Legislature.

The 2012 Legislative Session will begin on Tuesday, January 10, 2012, and end on Monday, March 19, 2012, to complete a 35-day Session. During the Session, the Legislature will be in recess beginning Monday, March 5, through Friday, March 16.

**Special Sessions:** May be called by the Governor or two-thirds of both houses of the Legislature.

### MEMBERSHIP

The **Senate:** 35 Senators (30 R and 5 D) elected from 35 districts. The Constitution provides for not fewer than 25 or more than 35 members.

The **House:** 70 Representatives (50 R, 19 D, and 1 I) elected from 35 districts. The Constitution provides for not fewer than 50 or more than 75 members. District 28 has been subdivided into two House districts to ensure compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

Term of Office: Two Years.

Elected: November of even-numbered years.

COMMITTEE	Senate Chair	House Chair
Agriculture & Natural Resources	Shantel Krebs	Kim Vanneman
Appropriations	Corey Brown	Dean Wink
Commerce & Energy	Tom Nelson	Roger Solum
Education	Mark Johnston	Tom Brunner
Government Operations & Audit	Jeffrey Haverly	Lance Carson
Health & Human Services	Jean Hunhoff	Jamie Boomgarden
Judiciary	Craig Tieszen	Roger Hunt
Legislative Procedure	Bob Gray	Val Rausch
Local Government	Todd Schlekeway	Mark Kirkeby
Retirement Laws	Bruce Rempelberg	Manny Steele
State Affairs	Larry Rhoden	David Lust
Taxation	Tom Hansen	Mark Willadsen
Transportation	Mike Vehle	Mike Verchio

## How an Idea Becomes Law



**A bill is simply an idea** that someone would like to see become law. It could be anything from the penalty for committing a crime to the amount of money that can be spent on a state program.

The idea can come from anyone, but only a State Representative or Senator can take that idea and guide it to final passage through the State Legislature.



**Drafting a bill means putting the idea into legal language.** The drafting is done by the Legislative Research Council, an agency of state government. Introduction of a bill can be made by any member of the House or Senate, and more than one legislator generally sponsors a bill. The legislator whose name appears first on the bill is the "prime sponsor."



**The Bill is introduced in the House or Senate.** A bill is given to the Chief Clerk of the House or the Secretary of the Senate and is assigned a number. If the bill is sponsored by a Senator, it is a Senate Bill. Proposals which start in the House are House Bills.

The bill is given a First Reading in the "House of Origin" (in the House if sponsored by a Representative; in the Senate, if sponsored by a Senator). A First Reading means the bill's number and title are read aloud.

**The Senate President or Speaker of the House then assigns the bill to a committee.**



Committee action is crucial to the legislative process. A committee's responsibility is to examine a bill carefully, take testimony for and against the bill, and decide whether to send the bill to the "floor" (the full House or Senate) for consideration by the full body.



The committee can send the bill to the floor with a "Do Pass" recommendation. They can "Table" the bill, which means it is dead unless the full body orders the committee to send the bill to the floor ("Smoke-Out"). Or, depending on the length of the session, the committee can defer a bill to the day after the last Legislative Day, which also kills the bill since there are a predetermined number of legislative days in an annual session. In rare cases, if a committee cannot get enough votes to pass or kill the bill, a measure may be sent to the floor without recommendation. In that case, the full body must vote whether they want to place the bill on the "calendar" (agenda) for consideration.

Once a bill reaches the floor, it is debated and voted on. If it passes, the bill is forwarded on to the other body, where it goes through the same committee process.



**If a bill passes both the House and Senate, it is sent to the Governor.** If he signs it, the bill becomes law. If he vetoes it, the Legislature has an opportunity to decide whether to override or uphold his veto. If the Legislature wants to override the veto, the bill becomes law.

**THE SENATE**

**OFFICERS**

**THE HOUSE**

**President:**  
**Matt Michels (R)**

By virtue of the office as Lieutenant Governor, presides over Senate; announces Senate Chairs and members of committees; refers bills to appropriate committees.

**President Pro Tempore:**  
**Bob Gray (R)**

Elected by Senate; presides over Senate in absence of President. Appoints Senate Chairs and committee members.

**Speaker:**  
**Val Rausch (R)**

Elected by House of Representatives; presides over House; appoints House Chairs and members of committees; refers bills to appropriate committees.

**Speaker Pro Tempore:**  
**Brian Gosch (R)**

Elected by House of Representatives; presides over House in absence of Speaker.

**MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS**

Preside over party caucuses, direct party strategy, assemble party members for important votes, and serve as liaisons for party caucuses in dealing with the Governor and press. Minority members of committees are appointed on nomination of minority leadership. The leaders are elected by their respective party membership.

**Majority Leader:**  
Russell Olson (R)

**Majority Leader:**  
David Lust (R)

**Ass't Majority Leader:**  
Corey Brown (R)

**Ass't Majority Leader:**  
Justin Cronin (R)

**Majority Whips:**  
Shantel Krebs (R)  
Tim Rave (R)  
Craig Tieszen (R)

**Majority Whips:**  
Charles Hoffman (R)  
Nick Moser (R)  
Jacqueline Sly (R)  
Hal Wick (R)

**Minority Leader:**  
Jason Frerichs (D)

**Minority Leader:**  
Bernie Hunhoff (D)

**Ass't Minority Leader:**  
Jim Hundstad (D)

**Ass't Minority Leader:**  
Mitch Fargen (D)

**Minority Whips:**  
Jim Bradford (D)

**Minority Whips:**  
Susy Blake (D)  
Peggy Gibson (D)

**EMPLOYEES**

Responsible for the administrative details of the two chambers and calling the roll for votes.

**Secretary**  
Fee Jacobsen

**Clerk**  
Karen Gerdes

**LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COUNCIL**

Prepares legislative drafts and provides professional staff to standing committees and individual legislators for technical advice and research.

**Director:** James Fry

**2012 LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE**

January 10	First day of Session.
January 26	Last day to introduce individual bills.
January 30	Last day to introduce committee bills.
February 10	Last day to use J.R. 5-17.
February 13	Last day for required bill delivery (smoke-out) in house of origin.
February 14	Last day for a bill to pass the house of origin.
February 27	Last day for required bill delivery (smoke-out) in second house.
February 28	Last day for a bill to pass both houses.
February 29	Last day to introduce commemorations (J.R. 6H-1).
March 19	35 <sup>th</sup> Legislative Day.
July 1	Effective date of enacted legislation (except emergency measures).

**VISITOR INFORMATION**

Legislative sessions and committee hearings are held in the Capitol at Pierre and are open to the public.

Committee hearings are conducted in the morning of each legislative day. Notice of time and location of each hearing is posted in front of each chamber on the third floor.

Legislative session convenes daily at 2:00 p.m. (CT). The public galleries are located on the fourth floor. Additionally, live audio webcasts of all committee meetings and floor sessions can be heard by accessing the Legislature's Web site and clicking on the committee or chamber you wish to monitor.

**TELEPHONE DIRECTORY**

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The House of Representatives (Session Only) .773-3851  
Secretary of Senate (Session Only) .....773-3825  
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**Legislative  
Research  
Council**

# The South Dakota Legislature



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**PREPARED BY**  
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