

State of South Dakota

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2019

373B0481

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

Introduced by: Senators Kennedy, Bolin, Foster, Heinert, Langer, Nesiba, Otten (Ernie),
Soholt, Solano, and Wismer and Representatives Sullivan, Bordeaux,
Borglum, Cwach, Duba, Healy, Lesmeister, McCleerey, Otten (Herman),
Pourier, Reed, Ring, Schoenfish, Smith (Jamie), and St John

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Directing the Executive Board to create a fifteen-member
2 task force to study and make legislative proposals regarding alternatives to imprisonment
3 for those convicted of the crime of ingestion of controlled substances.

4 WHEREAS, a conviction under § 22-42-5.1 for ingestion of a controlled substance carries
5 the penalty of a Class 6 felony; and

6 WHEREAS, South Dakota is the only state that imposes a felony for ingestion of a
7 controlled substance; and

8 WHEREAS, twenty-seven percent of the male population and thirty-six percent of the
9 female population of inmates in the state, with a total population of three hundred sixty-six
10 inmates, who are serving prison terms for ingestion of a controlled substance under § 22-42-5.1;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, reducing the penalty for ingestion of a controlled substance under § 22-42-5.1
13 from a felony to a misdemeanor would save the state an estimated fifty million dollars in
14 department of corrections expenses over ten years, according to a Legislative Research Council's



1 prison and jail cost estimate in 2018; and

2 WHEREAS, prevention and treatment alternatives to imprisonment, including Drug Courts,
3 Hope Probation, and mental health or substance abuse treatment services, reduce recidivism and
4 provide better opportunity for offenders to stay with their family, in their community, and to
5 remain employed:

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Ninety-Fourth Legislature
7 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the
8 Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council shall create a task force to be comprised
9 of fifteen members, with any vacancy on the task force to be filled in the same manner as the
10 original appointment, and including:

- 11 (1) Three members of the Senate, two of whom to be members of the Republican party
12 and one of whom to be a member of the Democrat party;
- 13 (2) Three members of the House of Representatives, two of whom to be members of the
14 Republican party and one of whom to be a member of the Democrat party;
- 15 (3) The secretary of the Department of Health;
- 16 (4) The secretary of the Department of Corrections;
- 17 (5) The attorney general;
- 18 (6) Two members to be appointed by the Governor who are members of the law
19 enforcement community;
- 20 (7) Two members from the Unified Judicial System; and
- 21 (8) Two members who are representatives of the South Dakota Association of County
22 Commissioners;

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the task force shall study and evaluate the crime of
24 unauthorized ingestion of controlled drugs or substances under § 22-42-5.1, including the

1 number of arrests, convictions, and rates of recidivism since the law was enacted in 2013;

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the task force shall study and evaluate alternatives to
3 imprisonment for any person charged and convicted under § 22-42-5.1 more adequately to assist
4 the person with substance abuse issues;

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the task force shall study and evaluate possible funding
6 alternatives as well as the financial ramifications through the reclassification of the penalty
7 under § 22-42-5.1 from a felony to a misdemeanor on the state, the counties of the state, law
8 enforcement, substance abuse treatment facilities, and any other interested person that may be
9 affected by the reclassification of the penalty;

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the task force shall report to the Legislature and the
11 Governor before the beginning of the Ninety-Fifth Legislative Session, including any draft
12 legislation or policy recommendations;

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the task force shall be staffed by the Legislative Research
14 Council and funded not in excess of twenty-one thousand dollars.