

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board met seven times during the period January 2004 through December 2004: March 15, April 19, May 17, June 2, August 2, October 25, and November 22-23. At its April and May meetings, the Board established the interim program by selecting study topics and appointing study committees. The Board also made appointments to groups authorized by the 2004 Legislature: Criminal Code Revision Commission and Child Care and Early Learning Opportunities Task Force.

The Board also assigned four issue memorandums: (1) *Liquidated Costs and Surcharge Collected by the Unified Judicial System*; (2) *Medicaid—A Study Focusing on Cost Containment, Demographics and Comparison with the Systems in Other States* (3) *9-1-1-System*; and (4) *Conservation Easements*. The Board also requested a staff paper on the issue of mobile voters. The other highlights of the 2004 meetings are summarized on page 2 of this report.

The Board monitors the legislative participation in the **Council of State Governments (CSG)**. The 2004 Midwestern Meeting was held in Des Moines, Iowa, July 11-14. The conference theme was *Fields of Opportunities*.

The 2005 meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference, scheduled for August 1-3, will be in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Legislators who served on Council of State Governments committees are listed in the Appendix to the *Interim Report*.

The Midwestern Legislative Conference's annual Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development (BILLD) was held July 30-August 3, 2004, in Madison, Wisconsin. Senator Michael LaPointe and Representatives Michael Buckingham and Daryl J. Christensen participated in this training program, which is designed exclusively for Midwestern legislators. The Bowhay Institute is named in honor of the late James Bowhay, the first director of the Midwestern Office of the Council of State Governments.

The CSG Annual State Trends and Leadership Forum was held in Anchorage, Alaska, on September 25-29. This annual gathering brings together state elected and appointed officials in all three branches of government.

In addition to the Council of State Governments, the Legislature is a member of the **National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)**. *The New Legislative Reality* was the theme of the 2004 NCSL Annual Meeting, which was held in Salt Lake City, Utah, July 19-23. The 2005 meeting will be held in Seattle, Washington, August 16-20.

Members of the 2004 NCSL committees can be found in the Appendix. **Senator Royal "Mac" McCracken** was elected to the National Conference of State Legislatures' (NCSL) Executive Committee. The election was held in conjunction with the organization's annual meeting. The Executive Committee is the governing body of the Conference. The Executive Committee and Conference officers have supervision, control and direction of the affairs of the Conference, its committees and publications and implement the policies and supervise the disbursement of its funds.

The LRC Executive Board is responsible for appointments to several groups, including the State Investment Council and the Uniform Laws Commission (ULC). At its June 2 meeting, the Board appointed Mr. Curtis J. Johnson of Pierre to a five-year term on the Investment Council. The Board also reappointed Messrs. Richard O. Gregerson (Sioux Falls) and Gene Lebrun (Rapid City) to three-year terms on the Uniform Laws Commission.

In other action throughout the year, the Executive Board:

- Awarded State Investment Officer Stephen R. Myers a bonus of \$112,053.37 for the two-year period ending June 30, 2004.
- Established incoming State Investment Officer Matt Clark's salary at \$248,900 and continued the performance bonus award plan.
- Selected the Departments of Agriculture and Public Safety for review during the 2005 interim.
- Directed staff to investigate a working framework for agency reviews.
- Received updates on the status of the 2001 redistricting lawsuit and took action directing counsel to respond to the judge's request for a remedial plan requesting the judge to certify the question of the applicability of *Emery v. Hunt* and to enter an order in the form of further direction to the Legislature with regard to appropriate range of Native American voting populations in the new districts.
- Accepted a lease proposal between South Dakota and Gateway for notebook computers for legislators and recommended a paper reduction effort for the upcoming legislative session.
- Awarded the legislative printing contract for the 2005 Legislative Session to State Publishing Company of Pierre. In other legislative session business, the Board awarded the 2005-2006 photographer contracts to Samuels Studio of Rapid City; waived the fee for use of legislative committee rooms during the session; and authorized a Doctor-of-the-Day Program.
- Requested that the Department of Legislative Audit conduct a mini review of *No Child Left Behind*.
- Directed the Department of Legislative Audit to conduct a review of the Highway Safety Program.
- Appointed the chairs of the Senate and House Standing Education Committees (Senator Ed Olson and Representative Phyllis Heineman) as South Dakota's delegates to the Education Commission of the States.
- Declined membership in the Midwestern Higher Education Compact.
- Approved the hiring of an FTE to provide economic forecast information to the Legislature.

- Approved funding in the amount of \$500,000 for a state-of-the-art conference room for the Legislature.
- Appointed legislators to serve on a Motor Vehicle Task Force, West River Issues Working Group, and Agricultural Machinery Dealer Franchise Subcommittee.
- Recognized outgoing members Representatives Rebekah Cradduck, Claire Konold, and Gerald Lange, and Board Chair Representative Orville Smidt.

In addition, the Executive Board served as the interim Bonding Committee. The committee met on November 22 and 23 to review the operations, programs, and financial conditions of the various state authorities and agencies authorized to incur debt. The committee received the annual reports from and asked questions of the representatives of the following: the South Dakota Housing Development Authority, the South Dakota Building Authority, the South Dakota Health and Educational Facilities Authority, the South Dakota Economic Development Authority, the South Dakota Conservancy District, and the South Dakota Value Added Finance Authority.

Staff members to the Bonding Committee included: Fred Baatz, Principal Research Analyst; and Teri Retrum, Senior Legislative Secretary.

The Executive Board is responsible for the entire interim research program of the Legislative Research Council. The several committees, working within the framework of the Legislative Research Council, have submitted their summaries in this report and will submit their legislative recommendations to the 2005 Legislature.

Listing of Executive Board Members

Members: Representative Orville B. Smidt, Chair; Senator Ed Olson, Vice Chair; Senators Arnold M. Brown, Tom Dempster, H. Paul Dennert, Brock L. Greenfield, Gil Koetzle, and Royal "Mac" McCracken; and Representatives Julie Bartling, Rebekah Cradduck, Phyllis M. Heineman, Claire B. Konold, Gerald Lange, Matthew Michels, and Ron Williamson.

Staff members: James A. Fry, LRC Director; Yolonda J. Soyer, Administrative Assistant; Teri Retrum, Senior Legislative Secretary; and Reta Rodman and Kris Schneider, Legislative Secretaries.