

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2000

732D0821

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1013

Introduced by: Representatives McNenny, Brooks, Cerny, Cutler, Diedrich (Larry), Duenwald, Fryslie, Garnos, Jaspers, Klaudt, Koehn, Koskan, Lintz, Lockner, Nachtigal, Pummel, Putnam, Richter, Weber, and Wetz and Senators Bogue, Benson, Frederick, Ham, Kleven, and Symens

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Seeking increased federal funding for the state animal
2 damage control program.

3 WHEREAS, the stated goal of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks' Animal Damage
4 Control (ADC) Program is to minimize wildlife damage to private and public land, domestic
5 livestock and other vital agricultural interests using effective, socially acceptable, and biologically
6 sound methods that provide for the health and welfare of wildlife resources and the citizens of
7 this state; and

8 WHEREAS, the state ADC Program is recognized by many as one of the most efficient,
9 responsive, and professional programs in existence; a program that has proudly served the
10 citizens of South Dakota for more than a quarter century and upon which countless numbers of
11 livestock producers depend to reduce livestock losses and safeguard their vital and often tenuous
12 economic livelihood; and

13 WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the 1931 Animal Damage Control Act which
14 instructed the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to cooperate with the states in
15 providing for the control of predatory animals; and

1 WHEREAS, the federal government in 1974, by virtue of a cooperative agreement,
2 relinquished ADC Program services and subsequent program management responsibilities to the
3 South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. As part of that cooperative agreement, the
4 federal government provided the department an annual grant-in-aid in the amount of \$300,000
5 to bolster ADC Program services statewide. That amount was lowered to \$298,000 in fiscal year
6 1998; and

7 WHEREAS, the federal grant-in-aid, while helpful, has remained static since its inception,
8 failing even to account for simple inflation. This has placed an undue financial burden on the
9 counties and sportsmen and women whose respective tax and game and fish license revenues
10 account for the vast majority of ADC Program expenditures, estimated at \$1.4 million in fiscal
11 year 2000. In essence, the federal financial commitment has diminished proportionally over time
12 while the demand for program services, and subsequent financial burden to the State of South
13 Dakota and its counties, continues to rise; and

14 WHEREAS, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks has sought and received the support
15 of the South Dakota congressional delegation who, on behalf of the citizens of South Dakota,
16 have made several formal requests that USDA increase the amount of the federal grant-in-aid
17 South Dakota currently receives for its ADC Program. USDA Secretary Dan Glickman has
18 summarily denied these requests:

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-
20 fifth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South
21 Dakota Legislature wholeheartedly and steadfastly supports the professional services provided
22 the citizens of South Dakota, agricultural producers in particular, by the Animal Damage Control
23 Program. In order for the ADC Program to continue providing its high level of service, it is
24 imperative that the funding source be made more secure. We join our legislative counterparts at
25 the federal level and respectfully request the United States Department of Agriculture to increase

1 the amount of South Dakota's federal grant-in-aid to a minimum of \$500,000 annually and
2 further request the amount be automatically adjusted in accordance with the previous year's
3 estimated rate of inflation. We further believe the \$500,000 amount is reasonable considering the
4 state has received no increase in the federal grant-in-aid for over twenty-five years and that the
5 State of South Dakota and its counties continue to provide the vast majority of operating
6 revenue for the ADC Program.