

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2000

618D0634

SENATE BILL NO. 134

Introduced by: Senators Kloucek, Hutmacher, Lawler, and Reedy and Representatives Weber, Apa, Chicoine, Diedtrich (Elmer), Hanson, Napoli, and Patterson

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to establish an ombudsman to represent property owners
2 in proceedings involving property assessments.

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

4 Section 1. The Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council shall appoint an
5 ombudsman to represent and assist property owners concerning property assessments and
6 appeals. The person shall possess knowledge and training in the field of property assessments and
7 taxation. Within one year of the person's appointment, the person is required to hold the
8 certificate required of the directors of equalization pursuant to § 10-3-1.1. The budget for the
9 ombudsman shall be appropriated annually to the Legislature.

10 Section 2. The ombudsman shall research, study, and analyze issues related to property
11 assessments and taxation. The ombudsman shall investigate complaints and meet and provide
12 information to property owners. The ombudsman may intervene or appear of behalf of any
13 private property owner in a judicial, legislative, or administrative hearing or proceeding involving
14 property assessments or taxation. The ombudsman may advise private property owners and
15 communicate and request assistance and information from state and local government agencies.
16 Contacts with private property owners shall be recorded and annually reported to the executive

1 board.

2 Section 3. The ombudsman may enter into contracts with trained assessors or mediators to
3 perform services under the ombudsman program as a special ombudsman.

4 Section 4. The Department of Revenue and local directors of equalization shall disseminate
5 information about the ombudsman program.

6 Section 5. In addition to other powers and duties conferred by this Act or authorized by the
7 Executive Board, the ombudsman may submit recommendations to amend the laws of the state,
8 draft bills for proposed legislation, and present legislation to the appropriate legislative
9 committees.