

Subcommittee on the Board of Regents' Special Appropriation Bills

The subcommittee makes the following observations and recommendations on the special appropriation bills introduced by the Board of Regents in the Eighty Second Legislative Session:

The Board of Regents submitted their annual FY2008 budget request to the Governor in September of 2006. The total amount requested totaled \$179,813,306 in general funds, \$108,431,941 in federal fund authority, and \$275,758,247 in other fund authority. The requested amounts included the following items to be funded from the general fund:

- Math and Science Academy for the Sioux Falls School District - \$150,936;
- Technology Upgrades - \$4,048,971;
- Critical Maintenance and Repair - \$673,050; and
- Certified Low Vision Specialist at the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired - \$57,000.

The Governor did not include the items listed above in his recommended budget. The total amount of his recommendation amounted to \$174,163,548 in general funds, \$109,680,015 in federal funds, and \$280,865,959 in other funds.

In January of 2007, the Board of Regents introduced the following bills requesting general funds in the form of one-time special appropriations:

- HB 1061 - An Act make an appropriation to initiate a Mathematics and Science Academy for \$150,936;
- HB 1062 - An Act to make an appropriation to fund state university information technology and security system upgrades for \$2,808,816;
- HB 1063 - An Act to make an appropriation for maintenance and repair projects of the Board of Regents deemed critical to facility safety and function for \$673,050; and
- HB 1066 - An Act to authorize the Board of Regents to initiate a program to enhance services to children diagnosed with low vision for \$57,000.

The subcommittee recognizes the problems facing the Board of Regents, and their motivation for introducing the four special appropriation bills outside the Governor's budget recommendation. Although these bills address pressing needs encountered by the Regents, due to budget constraints, the committee cannot recommend approval of the bills at this time. The committee would recommend that the Board of Regents and the Governor continue to communicate and attempt to rectify the critical problems addressed in the four special appropriation bills.

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