

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-THIRD SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2008

745P0661

SENATE BILL NO. 195

Introduced by: Senators Katus, Bartling, Jerstad, Koetzle, Nesselhuf, Peterson (Jim), Turbak Berry, and Two Bulls and Representatives Ahlers, Burg, Dennert, Elliott, Gassman, Hargens, Kirkeby, Lucas, Sigdestad, and Street

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to create the South Dakota Commission on Higher Pay and
2 Economic Prosperity, to prescribe its duties, and to make an appropriation therefor.

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

4 Section 1. There is hereby created the South Dakota Commissions on Higher Pay and
5 Economic Prosperity. The commission is charged with the assignment to study all relevant
6 components of the state's economic environment in an attempt to determine why the state's wage
7 structure presently lags behind national and regional averages. In doing so, the commission shall
8 consider such factors as industrial diversification, the impact of economic development, the
9 predominance of agriculture and tourism infrastructure problems including failure to be part of
10 the national rail and air network, unemployment and underemployment, geographical concerns,
11 housing, the depopulation of the farming communities, the concentration of new growth along
12 the interstate highway system, the inability of small town financial institutions to provide
13 investment capital, the unique employment problems of the reservations, out-migration of
14 college graduates, vocational training, population demographics, the role of state government



1 in economic development, and any other considerations that the commission may identify and
2 deem significant. Upon completion of its charge, or from time to time as it deems appropriate,
3 the commission shall report its findings and conclusions and shall recommend corrective
4 legislation to the Legislature.

5 Section 2. The commission shall be composed of thirteen members each appointed for the
6 life of the commission by the Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council. Two
7 members of the commission shall be legislators, one from each political party. At least one
8 member on the commission shall represent labor, industry, small business, the retail and service
9 trades, agriculture, and South Dakota's tribal nations. Some members should have a familiarity
10 with economics, demographics, transportation systems, infrastructure, and education. No more
11 than eight members of the commission may be of the same political party. Any vacancy on the
12 commission shall be filled by an appropriate appointment by the Executive Board of the
13 Legislative Research Council.

14 Section 3. The initial chair shall be appointed by the Executive Board for a one-year term.
15 Thereafter, the commission shall select its own chair.

16 Section 4. The commission shall meet a minimum of eight times per year. At least six
17 meetings per year shall be scheduled outside of the state capital including rural areas and
18 reservations to facilitate a broad spectrum of public testimony and to provide the commission
19 with an opportunity to view a maximum of varied economic environments on site.

20 Section 5. The commission shall report to the Executive Board from time to time as it deems
21 appropriate but not less than annually. The commission may report findings and conclusions or
22 recommend legislation at any time. If the commission finds it desirable to contract for
23 consulting services, it shall submit a timely budget request to the Executive Board.

24 Section 6. The members of the commission shall receive per diem and expenses as provided

1 by statute.

2 Section 7. The commission terminates on June 30, 2010.

3 Section 8. There is hereby appropriated from the general fund the sum of fifty thousand
4 dollars (\$50,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, to the Legislative Research Council
5 to provide for per diem and expenses for the Commission on Higher Pay and Economic
6 Prosperity.

7 Section 9. The director of the Legislative Research Council shall approve vouchers and the
8 state auditor shall draw warrants to pay expenditures authorized by this Act.

9 Section 10. Any amounts appropriated in this Act not lawfully expended or obligated by
10 June 30, 2010, shall revert in accordance with the procedures prescribed in chapter 4-8.