

PRESS RELEASE



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SOUTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE TO HOLD SPECIAL SESSION

PIERRE – On October 2, 2020, Governor Noem issued an [Executive Proclamation](#) calling for a special session of the State Legislature on October 5, 2020. Lawmakers will consider legislation to amend the Fiscal Year 2021 budget for the planned expenditure of federal funds relating to coronavirus relief received by the state, and to consider the resolution recommended by the Interim Committee on Appropriations on September 30, 2020.

Legislative leadership on October 2, 2020, directed that the special session be accessible remotely via electronic conference. As was done with Veto Day on March 30, 2020, legislators will be allowed to participate remotely from their residences. South Dakota Public Broadcasting will provide livestream coverage of the session, making the process open to the public electronically, but not physically. The electronic feed can be accessed through the Legislative Research Council [website](#) or [sd.net](#).

Senator Brock Greenfield, President Pro Tempore, says legislators who plan to attend in person should do so responsibly.

"In keeping with the federal COVID-19 guidelines, people will be encouraged to wear face coverings and be spaced at least six feet apart. There will also be hand sanitizing stations in the meeting areas. We want to do what we can to keep people who opt to attend in-person safe," Greenfield said.

House Speaker Representative Steven Haugaard says given the issues to be decided, it is important that the special session take place.

"South Dakota has until December 30 of this year to spend all the CRF money. In the past few weeks, the public has had a chance to weigh in on how it should be spent. Now it's time to take that input and make the best decisions we can for the good of our state," said Haugaard.

Senate Minority Leader Troy Heinert says the COVID-19 pandemic will likely continue to be an issue for legislators.

"When the 2020 Session was ending, the pandemic was just getting started. Here we are getting close to the start of the 2021 Session and South Dakotans and the world are still battling COVID-19. This special session will get us started as lawmakers in finding ways we can help our state get through it," Heinert said.

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate are scheduled to convene at 10:00 a.m. (CT).