Special Arrangements and Restrictions for Veto Day

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the South Dakota Legislature will meet electronically for its last scheduled day of the 2020 legislative session – Monday, March 30th.

On this day, the Legislature will consider whether to override or sustain the Governor's veto of four bills that passed the Legislature. It is also expected that there will be motions to introduce around a dozen new bills to address issues related to the pandemic.

The House of Representatives plans to meet as a Committee of the Whole to take testimony on each of these new pieces of legislation. The Senate may do the same for certain selected new bills. Any House or Senate action on any bills for which testimony is taken will occur after the conclusion of testimony to the Committee of the Whole.

The current pandemic has placed significant restrictions on public gatherings. There will be two committee rooms each for the House and Senate to which their legislative activities will be broadcast, and these rooms can only accommodate nine people each under Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guideline. However, all activities of the House and Senate will also be streamed to the internet through the Legislative Research Council website (https://sdlegislature.gov) or South Dakota Public Broadcasting (https://www.sd.net). South Dakotans wishing to follow the last day of the legislative session are asked to do so through these electronic options.

Those wanting to provide input or comments to legislators on any of these proposed bills are strongly encouraged to do so by visiting the following "Draft Legislation" link, rather than testifying in person. To do this, please click on the link below, and then click on the email button next to the draft for which you would like to provide input or comments. Your emailed comments will be shared with legislators.

https://mylrc.sdlegislature.gov/DraftLegislation.html

Anyone who does come to the Capitol to testify in person to the House or Senate Committee of the Whole will be required to undergo a health screening check before gaining entry to the Capitol, in addition to the regular security screening procedures. Testifiers must then sign up to testify outside the two rooms from which the electronic sessions of the Senate and House of Representatives are being broadcast (Rooms 413 and 414, respectively), and will be invited in to testify one at a time, at the appropriate time, in order to keep the number of people in these rooms under the CDC guideline of no more than nine. While in the Capitol, please remember to stay at least six feet away from anyone who is not a part of your household.

Thank you for your patience and assistance.