

## THE 2009 LEGISLATURE

The South Dakota Legislature is established by Article III of the Constitution of South Dakota as a bicameral legislative body.

### SESSIONS

#### Regular Sessions:

Odd-numbered years: Begin on the second Tuesday in January for 40 legislative days.

Even-numbered years: Begin on the second Tuesday in January for 35 legislative days.

**Special Sessions:** May be called by the Governor or two-thirds of both houses of the Legislature.

### MEMBERSHIP

The **Senate:** 35 Senators (21R and 14D) elected from 35 districts. The Constitution provides for not fewer than 25 or more than 35 members.

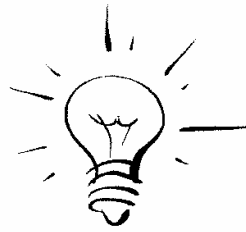
The **House:** 70 Representatives (46R and 24D) elected from 35 districts. The Constitution provides for not fewer than 50 or more than 75 members. District 28 has been subdivided into two House districts to ensure compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

Term of Office: Two Years.

Elected: November of even-numbered years.

COMMITTEE	Senate Chair	House Chair
Agriculture & Natural Resources	Larry Rhoden	Thomas J. Brunner
Appropriations	Jean Hunhoff	Larry Tidemann
Commerce	Russell Olson	Tim Rounds
Education	Cooper Garnos	Ed McLaughlin
Government Operations & Audit	Craig Tieszen	Deb Peters
Health & Human Services	Stanford Adelstein	Carol A. Pitts
Judiciary	Gene Abdallah	Joni Cutler
Legislative Procedure	Bob Gray	Tim Rave
Local Government	Jason Gant	Mark Kirkeby
Retirement Laws	Tom Nelson	Tim Rounds
State Affairs	Thomas Dempster	Bob Faehn
Taxation	Tom Hansen	Ryan Olson
Transportation	Mike Vehle	Shantel Krebs

## How an Idea Becomes Law



A bill is simply an idea that someone would like to see become law. It could be anything from the penalty for committing a crime to the amount of money that can be spent on a state program.

The idea can come from anyone, but only a State Representative or Senator can take that idea and guide it to final passage through the State Legislature.



**Drafting a bill means putting the idea into legal language.** The drafting is done by the Legislative Research Council, an agency of state government.

Introduction of a bill can be made by any member of the House or Senate, and more than one legislator generally sponsors a bill. The legislator whose name appears first on the bill is the "prime sponsor."



**The BILL is introduced in the House or Senate**



A bill is given to the Chief Clerk of the House or the Secretary of the Senate and is assigned a number. If the bill is sponsored by a Senator, it is a Senate Bill. Proposals which start in the House are House Bills.

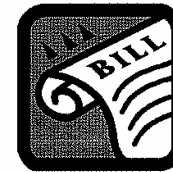
The bill is given a First Reading in the "House of Origin" (in the House if sponsored by a Representative; in the Senate, if sponsored by a Senator). A First Reading means the bill's number and title are read aloud.

**The Senate President or Speaker of the House then assigns the bill to a committee.**



Committee action is crucial to the legislative process. A committee's responsibility is to examine a bill carefully, take testimony for and

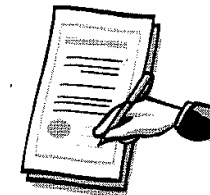
against the bill, and decide whether to send the bill to the "floor" (the full House or Senate) for consideration by the full body.



The committee can send the bill to the floor with a "Do Pass" recommendation. They can "Table" the bill, which means it is dead unless the full body orders the committee to send the bill to the floor. Or the committee can "Defer to the 36<sup>th</sup> or 41<sup>st</sup> Legislative Day" which also kills the bill, since there are only 35 or 40 legislative days in an annual session. In rare cases, if a committee cannot get enough votes to pass or kill the bill, a measure may be sent to the floor without recommendation. In that case, the full body must vote whether they want to place the bill on the "calendar" (agenda) for consideration.



Once a bill reaches the floor, it is debated and voted on. If it passes, the bill is forwarded on to the other body, where it goes through the same committee process.



**If a bill passes both the House and Senate, it is sent to the Governor.** If he signs it, the bill becomes law. If he vetoes it, the Legislature has an opportunity to decide whether to override or uphold his veto. If the Legislature votes to override the veto, the bill becomes law.

**THE SENATE****THE HOUSE****OFFICERS****President:****Dennis Dausgaard (R)**

By virtue of the office as Lieutenant Governor, presides over Senate; announces Senate Chairs and members of committees; refers bills to appropriate committees.

**Speaker:****Tim Rave (R)**

Elected by House of Representatives; presides over House; appoints House Chairs and members of committees; refers bills to appropriate committees.

**President Pro Tempore:****Bob Gray (R)**

Elected by Senate; presides over Senate in absence of President. Appoints Senate Chairs and committee members.

**Speaker Pro Tempore:****Val Rausch (R)**

Elected by House of Representatives; presides over House in absence of Speaker.

**MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS**

Preside over party caucuses, direct party strategy, assemble party members for important votes, serve as liaisons for party caucuses in dealing with the Governor and press. Minority members of committees are appointed on nomination of minority leadership. The leaders are elected by their respective party membership.

**Majority Leader:**

Dave Knudson (R)

**Majority Leader:**

Bob Faehn (R)

**Ass't Majority Leader: Ass't Majority Leader:**

Thomas A. Dempster (R)

Kristi Noem (R)

**Majority Whips:**Cooper Garnos (R)  
Larry Rhoden (R)**Majority Whips:**Jamie Boomgarden (R)  
Brian G. Gosch (R)  
David Lust (R)  
Manny Steele (R)**Minority Leader:**

Scott N. Heidepriem (D)

**Minority Leader:**

Bernie Hunhoff (D)

**Ass't Minority Leader: Ass't Minority Leader:**

Gary Hanson (D)

H. Paul Dennert (D)

**Minority Whips:**Margaret V. Gillespie (D)  
Jim Peterson (D)**Minority Whips:**Marc Feinstein (D)  
Jason Frerichs (D)  
Eldon Nygaard (D)**EMPLOYEES**

Responsible for the administrative details of the two chambers and calling the roll for votes.

**Secretary**

Trudy Evenstad

**Clerk**

Karen Gerdes

**LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COUNCIL**

Prepares legislative drafts and provides professional staff to standing committees and individual legislators for technical advice and research.

**Director:** James Fry

**2009 LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE**

January 13	First day of Session.
February 3	Last day to introduce individual bills.
February 4	Last day to introduce committee bills.
February 20	Last day to use rule 5-17.
February 23	Last day for required bill delivery (smoke-out) in house of origin.
February 24	Last day for a bill to pass the house of origin.
March 9	Last day for required bill delivery (smoke-out) in second house.
March 10	Last day for a bill to pass both houses.
March 13	39 <sup>th</sup> Legislative Day.
March 30	40 <sup>th</sup> Legislative Day.
July 1	Effective date of enacted legislation (except emergency measures).

**VISITOR INFORMATION**

Legislative sessions and committee hearings are held in the Capitol at Pierre and are open to the public.

Committee hearings are conducted in the morning of each legislative day. Notice of time and location of each hearing is posted in front of each chamber on the third floor.

Legislative session convenes daily at 2:00 p.m. (CT). The public galleries are located on the fourth floor. Additionally, live audio webcasts of all committee meetings and floor sessions can be heard by accessing the Legislature's Web site and clicking on the committee or chamber you wish to monitor.

**TELEPHONE DIRECTORY**

Legislative Research Council.....773-3251  
The Senate (Session Only).....773-3821  
The House of Representatives (Session Only).773-3851  
Secretary of Senate (Session Only).....773-3825  
Clerk of House (Session Only).....773-3842  
Legislator Fax (Session Only).....773-6806



Legislative  
Research  
Council

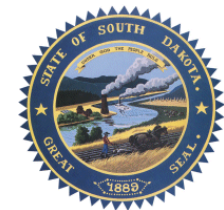
600 copies of this document were printed by the S.D. Legislative Research Council at a cost of \$.06 per document.

# The South Dakota Legislature



## Visit The Legislature On- Line

<http://legis.state.sd.us>

**PREPARED BY**

The South Dakota Legislative  
Research Council  
State Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501  
January 2009