

## THE 2020 LEGISLATURE

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

### SESSIONS

Legislative Sessions can run for up to 40 days every year, depending on the legislative calendar set by the Legislature.

The 2020 Legislative Session will begin Tuesday, January 14, 2020, and ends Monday, March 30, 2020, to complete a 37-day session. During the Session, the Legislature will be in recess beginning Friday, March 13, through Friday, March 27.

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

### MEMBERSHIP

**Term of Office:** Two Years.

**Term Limit:** Four Consecutive Terms.

**Elected:** November of even-numbered years.

The **Senate** consists of 35 Senators (30 R, 5 D) representing 35 districts. The Constitution provides for not fewer than 25 or more than 35 members.

The **House** consists of 70 Representatives (59 R, 11 D) representing 35 districts. The Constitution provides for not fewer than 50 or more than 75 members. Districts 26 and 28 have been subdivided into two House districts to ensure compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

### STANDING COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE	Senate Chair	House Chair
Agriculture & Natural Resources	Gary Cammack	Thomas Brunner
Appropriations	John Wiik	Chris Karr
Commerce & Energy	Jim Stalzer	Tim Rounds
Education	Blake Curd	Lana Greenfield
Government Operations & Audit	Ryan Maher	Sue Peterson
Health & Human Services	Deb Soholt	Kevin Jensen
Judiciary	Lance S. Russell	Jon Hansen
Legislative Procedure	Brock L. Greenfield	Steven Haugaard
Local Government	Phil Jensen	Herman Otten
Military & Veterans Affairs	Jim Bolin	Larry Zikmund
Retirement Laws	Jim White	Larry Zikmund
State Affairs	Bob Ewing	Lee Qualm
Taxation	Jeff Monroe	Mark Willadsen
Transportation	Ernie Otten	John Mills

## 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 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, the permanent, non-partisan staff of the Legislature. 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.**

If the bill is sponsored by a Senator, it is a Senate Bill. If the bill is sponsored by a Representative, it is a House Bill. A legislator who sponsors the bill presents it for introduction.



The bill is given a First Reading in the "House of Origin". The "House of Origin" is the chamber that sponsored the bill. A First Reading means the bill's number and title are read aloud.



**The Committee Process.**

The Senate President Pro Tempore 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, hear 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 appropriate chamber.



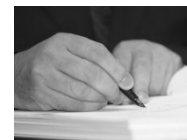
**The Committee's Options.**

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 ("Smoke-Out"). Or, the committee may defer a bill to the 41<sup>st</sup> day, which also kills the bill since there cannot be more than 40 legislative days. 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 of that chamber 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 signed, the bill becomes law. If vetoed, the Legislature has an opportunity to decide whether to override or uphold the veto. If the Legislature succeeds in overriding the veto, the bill becomes law.

**SENATE OFFICERS**

**President:**

**Larry Rhoden (R)**

By virtue of the office as Lieutenant Governor, presides over Senate.

**President Pro Tempore:**  
**Brock L. Greenfield (R)**

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

**HOUSE OFFICERS**

**Speaker:**

**Steven Haugaard (R)**

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

**Speaker Pro Tempore:**  
**Spencer Gosch (R)**

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

**2020 LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE**

January 14	First day of Session.
February 6	Last day to introduce individual bills and joint resolutions.
February 7	Last day to introduce committee bills and joint resolutions.
February 25	Last day to use J.R. 5-17.
February 26	Last day for required delivery of bills or resolutions by a committee in house of origin.
February 27	Last day for a bill or joint resolution to pass the house of origin.
March 5	Last day for required delivery of bills or resolutions by a committee in second house.
March 9	Last day for a bill or joint resolution to pass both houses.
March 12	36 <sup>th</sup> Legislative Day.
March 30	37 <sup>th</sup> Legislative Day.
July 1	Effective date of enacted legislation (except emergency measures).

Legislative Meetings: [calendar.sdlegislature.gov](http://calendar.sdlegislature.gov)

**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 either at 1:00 p.m. or 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  
Chief Clerk of House (Session Only) ..... 773-3987  
Legislator Fax (Session Only) ..... 773-6806

# Legislative Session Information



Visit the Legislature On-Line  
[sdlegislature.gov](http://sdlegislature.gov)

January 2020

**MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS**

Preside over party caucuses, direct party strategy, assemble party members for important votes, and 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:**  
**Kris K. Langer (R)**

**Ass't Majority Leader:**  
**Jim Bolin (R)**

**Majority Whips:**  
**Bob Ewing (R)**

**Joshua Klumb (R)**  
**Al Novstrup (R)**  
**Jordan Youngberg (R)**

**Minority Leader:**  
**Troy Heinert (D)**

**Ass't Minority Leader:**  
**Craig Kennedy (D)**

**Minority Whips:**  
**Reynold F. Nesiba (D)**

**Majority Leader:**  
**Lee Qualm (R)**

**Ass't Majority Leader:**  
**Arch Beal (R)**

**Majority Whips:**  
**Michael G. Diedrich (R)**

**Tim Goodwin (R)**  
**Jon Hansen (R)**  
**Kevin D. Jensen (R)**  
**Chris Karr (R)**

**Minority Leader:**  
**Jamie Smith (D)**

**Ass't Minority Leader:**  
**Steven D. McCleerey (D)**

**Minority Whips:**  
**Oren L. Lesmeister (D)**  
**Erin Healy (D)**

**EMPLOYEES**

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

**Secretary:**  
**Kay Johnson**

**Chief Clerk:**  
**Mary Lou Goehring**

**LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COUNCIL**

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

**Director:**  
**Jason Hancock**

