



2022 South Dakota Legislature

House Bill 1252

Introduced by: **Representative** Sue Peterson

1 **An Act to create an Office of Public Policy Events at institutions of higher education.**

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

3 **Section 1. That chapter 13-53 be amended with a NEW SECTION:**

4 Terms used in sections 2 through 5, inclusive, of this Act, mean:

5 (1) "Debate," an event at which two or more speakers present opposing approaches
 6 to the same public policy dispute, and are allotted time to address and rebut the
 7 position presented by the opposing speaker or speakers; and

8 (2) "Group Forum," an event at which two or more speakers address a public policy
 9 dispute from divergent or opposing perspectives, and are allotted time to:

10 (a) Address questions from the audience; and

11 (b) Comment on the other speakers' positions.

12 **Section 2. That chapter 13-53 be amended with a NEW SECTION:**

13 The Board of Regents shall establish, at each institution under its control, an Office
 14 of Public Policy Events. Each office shall:

15 (1) Organize, publicize, and stage debates, group forums, and individual lectures,
 16 which address, from multiple, divergent, and opposing perspectives, an extensive
 17 range of public policy issues that are widely discussed and debated in society at
 18 large;

19 (2) Invite speakers, from within and outside the institution, who hold a wide diversity
 20 of perspectives, to participate in debates and group forums, and present individual
 21 lectures;

22 (3) Provide, in accordance with institutional policies, honoraria, and travel and lodging
 23 expenses to participants in debates and group forums, and presenters of individual
 24 lectures organized by the office;

1 (4) Maintain a permanent, publicly accessible, searchable, and up-to-date calendar, in
2 print and electronic formats, which:

3 (a) Lists all events sponsored by the office; and

4 (b) Lists all other debates, group forums, and individual lectures, which are
5 open to all students, faculty members, and staff at that institution, which
6 address public policy issues, and which include the title of the event or
7 lecture; the name and institutional affiliation of each speaker; and the
8 office, institute, department, program, or organization, that is sponsoring
9 the event, with the exception of those events sponsored by off-campus
10 groups in rented facilities; and

11 (5) Make available, on the institution's publicly accessible website, a video recording
12 of each debate, group forum, and individual lecture organized by the office, within
13 ten in-session working days of the event, and:

14 (a) Ensure that each video recording remains publicly accessible on the
15 website, as required by this subdivision, for at least five years following the
16 date of the event; and

17 (b) Ensure that each video recording is permanently retained by each
18 institution's principal library and available to the public.

19 **Section 3. That chapter 13-53 be amended with a NEW SECTION:**

20 Each debate, group forum, and individual lecture organized by the Office of Public
21 Policy Events at a given institution is open to all students, faculty members, and staff at
22 that institution. Unless restricting the attendance of persons unaffiliated with the
23 institution is necessary to achieve a compelling governmental interest, each debate, group
24 forum, and individual lecture organized by the office is open to the public.

25 **Section 4. That chapter 13-53 be amended with a NEW SECTION:**

26 Each year, before September first, the Board of Regents shall compile and provide
27 to the Governor and each member of the House and the Senate, a copy of the previous
28 academic year's public policy events calendar. The calendar must be arranged
29 chronologically, by institution.

30 A copy of the compiled calendar must be retained by each institution's principal
31 library and available to the public.

32 **Section 5. That chapter 13-53 be amended with a NEW SECTION:**

1 The Board of Regents may delegate the duties of the Office of Public Policy Events,
2 as set forth in section 2 of this Act, to an existing administrative office at an institution,
3 provided the person charged with carrying out the duties is designated as the Director of
4 Public Policy Events for that institution.

5 Each Director of Public Policy Events is responsible to and reports directly to the
6 president of the institution.