

2024 Proposed Interim Studies

Study A

Title of Requested Study:

Mens Prison Design Oversight

Scope of Requested Study:

Oversight of admin design/plan for new mens prison

Requested By:

Representative Venhuizen

Study B

Title of Requested Study:

Study of Property Tax Assessments and Valuations

Scope of Requested Study:

This study would address the increase in property valuations and the burden of property taxes, specifically on owner occupied single family dwellings and rental properties. Because of COVID-19, an increase of individuals moving to South Dakota, and low interest rates, property assessments have increased dramatically. According to data from the Department of Revenue for owner-occupied residential property for fiscal year 2020-2023, there was an increase of \$21,460,451,155 in property assessments. This represents an average 58.39% increase in assessments for tax purposes across the state. This especially causes a concern on the burden for young buyers and individuals 65 and over.

The purpose of the study would be to explore options to address the large increase in valuations and how to lessen the burden of property taxes, including an evaluation of the impact that limiting annual increases of valuations would have on the broader property tax system.

The committee would meet for four days, with one meeting in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and Brookings or Aberdeen, respectively, and the final meeting in Pierre to finalize recommendations and proposed legislation.

Requested By:

Senator Kolbeck

Study C

Title of Requested Study:

Prison Construction Costs

Scope of Requested Study:

We have now spent or placed in reserves during the 2024 session more money for 2 prisons than a 2022 study (that we paid over \$300K for) indicated we would need for 18 prison projects across the entire system. Without active oversight during the design phase of construction, I believe we are setting the state up for a major overrun of expenditures - without meeting the entire identified need. If established, the interim committee could be tasked with the following: - full review of the DLR study - tour of current facilities - review of prison construction costs, scope of work and designs used, at prisons in other states, that are in progress or recently completed. - review of design & construction contracts, and plans in progress on the women's and men's prison - recommendations for design changes or construction bid alternates We are blessed to have members of the Legislature with active or significant construction experience. I may be overlooking some, but suggest that a majority of the members of the interim committee have construction experience including the following: Rep. Krohmer, (plumbing), Rep. Randolph (electrical), Rep. Mills (Gen. Contractor), Rep. Weisgram (flooring), Senator Deibert (surveying/civil eng.). I suggest the committee be no less than 5 members and no more than 9.

Requested By:

Representative Mills

Study D

Title of Requested Study:

Property Tax

Scope of Requested Study:

Study current property tax levels and the gap that exists between taxes on owner-occupied property and agriculture and business property.

Requested By:

Senate Local Government

Study E

Title of Requested Study:

Eminent Domain Codified Law Reform

Scope of Requested Study:

Review chapters of codified law, 9-11-21-34-43-46-49-50, in which contain eminent domain sections. With the amount of legislation that came before the South Dakota legislature in 2024, the many section of codified law should be reviewed for both landowner protections as well as utility protections for common good as well.

Requested By:

Representative Pinnow

Study F

Title of Requested Study:

Examining the Effectiveness of Court Diversion Programs

Scope of Requested Study:

Cost or savings of the program on in relation to costs of incarceration

Requested By:

Representative Fitzgerald

Study G

Title of Requested Study:

Property tax study

Scope of Requested Study:

recalculation of taxes

Requested By:

Representative Fitzgerald

Study H

Title of Requested Study:

The use of legislative caucuses as a tool for coalition-building.

Scope of Requested Study:

How to effectively build a team

Requested By:

Representative Fitzgerald

Study I

Title of Requested Study:

Study of Property Assessments & Valuations

Scope of Requested Study:

Scope - This study would address the increase in property valuations and the burden of property taxes, specifically on owner occupied single family dwellings and rental properties. Because of COVID-19, an increase of individuals moving to South Dakota, and low interest rates, property assessments have increased dramatically. According to data from the Department of Revenue for owner-occupied residential property for fiscal year 2020-2023, there was an increase of \$21,460,451,155 in property assessments. This represents an average 58.39% increase in assessments for tax purposes across the state. This especially causes a concern on the burden for young buyers and individuals 65 and over. The purpose of the study would be to explore options to address the large increase in valuations and how to lessen the burden of property taxes, including an evaluation of the impact that limiting annual increases of valuations would have on the broader property tax system.

Requested By:

Representative Ladner

Study J

Title of Requested Study:

Ellsworth Planning

Scope of Requested Study:

- a. With the B-21 bomber program, the Ellsworth Air Force Base is estimated to increase by more than 4,000 new military personnel, families, and civilians over the next twenty years, bringing the total base population to nearly 12,000 people. This study would examine the expansion of Ellsworth Air Force Base, including needs for additional infrastructure, growth in the area school systems, and other ways in which the state can support the expansion.
- b. The study would only have two meetings, with one either at Ellsworth or West River so the study would be able to tour the base.

Requested By:

Senator Duhamel

Study K

Title of Requested Study:

Domestic Violence Shelters

Scope of Requested Study:

Domestic violence shelters provide crucial services to victims of domestic violence and those in crisis, especially children. Many domestic violence shelters rely on public funding and volunteers to operate. In recent years, federal funding has declined. This study would examine the funding and sources of revenue for domestic violence shelters and the continuation of services.

Requested By:

Senator Hunhoff

Study L

Title of Requested Study:

AI Regulating

Scope of Requested Study:

How is it being used and what is the state's role in its regulation?

Requested By:

Representative Bartels

Study M

Title of Requested Study:

Process for Boards and Commissions Setting Fees

Scope of Requested Study:

Requested By:

Senator Maher

Study N

Title of Requested Study:

The Repurposing of the South Dakota Developmental Center in Redfield

Scope of Requested Study:

The state spends approximately \$27.4 million, including 272 FTEs, on 80 to 90 residences at the SDDC. The study would look at a more efficient way to deliver these services, including contraction out to a private company or shifting these services to the Human Services Center in Yankton, which has empty wings.

Requested By:

Senator Maher

Study O

Title of Requested Study:

911 System Consolidation

Scope of Requested Study:

Requested By:

Senator Maher

Study P

Title of Requested Study:

Review Mandatory Annual Reports

Scope of Requested Study:

An evaluation of the number of statutorily required reports, whether the report provides value, the time and resources necessary to compile the report, and if the report is necessary.

Requested By:

Representative Bartels

Study Q

Title of Requested Study:

Study of school funding

Scope of Requested Study:

The task of school funding and S.D. Codified Laws § 13-13-10.1. South Dakota expects school districts to contribute revenue to the funding of public schools. The amount each district is expected to raise for its education costs is based on its property values and its revenue from other local sources. This is the area that is concerning to landowners and perhaps a group could tackle our funding system.

- Is it fair?
- Is it outdated?
- Is it working as originated?

Requested By:

Representative Perry

Study R

Title of Requested Study:

Internet Regulation

Scope of Requested Study:

To assess the ability and the opportunities for the legislature to regulate the internet, with a focus on three applications: 1. Minors access to pornography, 2. artificial intelligence, and 3. cybersecurity.

Requested By:

Senator Schoenbeck

Study S

Title of Requested Study:

Voting dates and residency requirements

Scope of Requested Study:

Voting dates and residency requirements. This is an area that has had many conversations on voting. To vote:

- A U.S. citizen
- A resident in South Dakota (To be a resident means the place in which you have a fixed habitation and whenever you are absent intend to return to) Residency is very loose for interpretation!
- At least 18 years old on or before the election
- Not currently serving a sentence for a felony conviction which included imprisonment, served or suspended, in an adult penitentiary system
- Not judged mentally incompetent by a court of law

Is 45 days too long?

Should it be 14? 21? 27? 36?

Requested By:

Representative Perry

Study T

Title of Requested Study:

Water Quality

Scope of Requested Study:

Requested By:

Senator Larson

Study U

Title of Requested Study:

Regenerative grasslands

Scope of Requested Study:

Requested By:

Senator Larson

