

Minutes: Senate State Affairs

Wednesday, January 29, 2025 10:00 AM

Roll Call

Present: Sen. Beal, Sen. Deibert, Sen. Jensen (Kevin), Sen. Karr, Sen. Larson, Sen. Peterson (Sue), Sen. Pischke, Sen. Perry, and Sen. Mehlhaff

**The meeting was called to order by Senator Mehlhaff**

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MONDAY, JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>**

Moved by: Perry  
Second by: Pischke  
Action: Prevailed by voice vote

**SB 68 : require an individual be a citizen of the United States before being eligible to vote and to provide a penalty therefor.**

Presented by: Senator John Carley (Handout(s) HO#1)

Proponents: Rick Weible, Self, Elkton  
Mark Nelson, Self, Philip  
Senator Taffy Howard  
John James, Self, Rapid City  
Scot Montgomery, Self, Fairview SD  
Kim Allen, Self, Oral  
Grace Hochstatter, Self, Sioux Falls  
Cindy Cooke, Self, Meade County  
Cindy Meyer, Self, Hartford  
Nichole Braithwait, Self, Spearfish  
Jessica Pollema, Self, Sioux Falls  
Leah Anderson, Minnehaha County Auditor, Sioux Falls  
Linda Montgomery, Self, Fairview SD  
Opponents: Samantha Chapman, American Civil Liberties Union Foundation Inc., NY

**MOTION: DO PASS SB 68**

Moved by: Jensen (Kevin)  
Second by: Peterson (Sue)  
Action: Prevailed by Majority Members Elect (5-4-0-0)

Voting Yes: Jensen (Kevin), Karr, Peterson (Sue), Pischke, and Perry

Voting No: Beal, Deibert, Larson, and Mehlhaff

**SJR 503 : Proposing and submitting to the voters at the next general election an amendment to the Constitution of the State of South Dakota, clarifying that an individual must be a citizen of the United States to be eligible to vote.**

Presented by: Senator Taffy Howard

Proponents: Florence K. Thompson, SD Citizens for Liberty, Rapid City  
Rick Weible, Self, Elkton  
Senator John Carley  
John James, Self, Rapid City

Mark Nelson, Self, Philip  
 Scot Montgomery, Self, Fairview SD  
 Kim Allen, Self, Oral  
 Andreas Lauschke, Self, Rapid City  
 Grace Hochstatter, Self, Sioux Falls  
 Cindy Cooke, Self, Meade County  
 Cindy Meyer, Self, Hartford  
 Nichole Braithwait, Self, Spearfish  
 Jessica Pollema, Self, Sioux Falls  
 Kate Crowley Johnson, Self, St. Onge  
 Becky Arps, Self, Americans for Citizen Voting, Washington DC

**MOTION: AMEND SJR 503**

SJR503A

On page 1, line 12, of the Introduced resolution, remove the overstrikes from "Every "  
 On page 1, line 12, of the Introduced resolution, after "States " delete "Only an"  
 On page 1, line 14, of the Introduced resolution, after "be" insert " is"  
 On page 1, line 14, of the Introduced resolution, remove the overstrikes from " entitled to  
 vote in all elections and upon all questions"  
 On page 1, line 14, of the Introduced resolution, after "questions" delete " may vote in an  
 election or upon a question"  
 On page 1, line 16, of the Introduced resolution, after "felony." insert " An individual who is  
 not a citizen of the United States is disqualified from voting in any election or upon any  
 question submitted to the voters of this state."

Moved by: Peterson (Sue)  
 Second by: Perry  
 Action: Prevailed by voice vote

**MOTION: DO PASS SJR 503 AS AMENDED**

Moved by: Pischke  
 Second by: Beal  
 Action: Prevailed by Majority Members Elect (8-1-0-0)

Voting Yes: Beal, Deibert, Jensen (Kevin), Karr, Peterson (Sue), Pischke, Perry, and Mehlhaff

Voting No: Larson

**MOTION: ADJOURN**

Moved by: Karr  
 Second by: Beal  
 Action: Prevailed by voice vote

Doug Mortenson, Committee Secretary

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 /s/ JIM MEHLHAFF  
 Jim Mehlhaff, Chair