



2026 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Bill 190

Introduced by: **Senator Grove**

1 **An Act to provide for the rights of a parent.**

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

3 **Section 1. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 26:**

4 A state agency or any political subdivision of this state may not substantially
 5 burden the right of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental
 6 health of the parent's minor child, without demonstrating that the burden imposed on the
 7 parent is required by a compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive means
 8 for furthering that compelling governmental interest.

9 **Section 2. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 26:**

10 A parent has the right to:
 11 (1) Direct the upbringing of the parent's minor child;
 12 (2) Direct the moral and religious training of the parent's minor child;
 13 (3) Except as otherwise provided in section 5 of this Act, make and consent to all
 14 physical and mental health care decisions for the parent's minor child;
 15 (4) Access and review all medical records of the parent's minor child;
 16 (5) Direct the education of the parent's minor child;
 17 (6) Access and review all written and electronic educational records relating to the
 18 parent's minor child, which are in the possession of a school;
 19 (7) Have the parent's minor child excused from school attendance for religious
 20 purposes;
 21 (8) Participate in parent-teacher organizations and other school organizations
 22 sanctioned by the board of a school district;
 23 (9) Be notified promptly if an employee of the state reasonably believes that abuse,
 24 neglect, or other criminal offense has been committed against the parent's minor

1 child by someone other than the parent, unless doing so would interfere with a
2 criminal or other investigation;

3 (10) Consent before a biometric scan of the parent's minor child is performed, shared,
4 or stored;

5 (11) Consent before any record of the blood or deoxyribonucleic acid of the parent's
6 minor child is created, stored, or shared, unless authorized pursuant to a court
7 order; and

8 (12) Consent before any state agency or political subdivision of this state makes a video
9 or audio recording of the minor child, unless the video or audio recording is made
10 as part of:

11 (a) A court proceeding;

12 (b) A law enforcement investigation;

13 (c) An interview conducted as part of a criminal or other investigation;

14 (d) A surveillance or other security system;

15 (e) A photographic identification card; or

16 (f) A public event where the minor child has no reasonable expectation of
17 privacy.

18 Nothing in this section may be construed to permit a parent to abuse or neglect
19 the parent's minor child, as defined in § 26-8A-2, or to end the life of the parent's minor
20 child.

21 **Section 3. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 26:**

22 No employee of this state or a political subdivision of the state, except for a law
23 enforcement officer in the conduct of a criminal investigation, may encourage or coerce a
24 minor child to withhold information from the minor child's parent. Except as otherwise
25 provided by law, no employee of this state may withhold from a minor child's parent
26 information that is relevant to the physical, emotional, or mental health of the parent's
27 minor child.

28 **Section 4. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 26:**

29 A person, private entity, state agency, political subdivision of this state, or
30 employee of a state agency or political subdivision must obtain the consent of a minor
31 child's parent before:

32 (1) Procuring, soliciting, arranging, providing a referral for, or performing:

33 (a) A surgical procedure upon the minor child;

- 1 (b) A medical examination of the minor child;
2 (c) A mental health evaluation, in a clinical or nonclinical setting, of the minor
3 child; or
4 (d) Any mental health treatment for the minor child; or
5 (2) Prescribing or dispensing any prescription medication to the minor child.
6 A parent may provide a person, entity, state agency, political subdivision of this
7 state, or employee of a state agency or political subdivision blanket consent to perform
8 an action requiring consent, pursuant to this section.

9 **Section 5. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 26:**

- 10 Notwithstanding the requirements of section 4 of this Act, any person, private
11 entity, state agency, political subdivision of this state, or employee of a state agency or
12 political subdivision may perform any of the actions, listed in section 4 of this Act, to a
13 minor child without the consent of the minor child's parent if:
14 (1) It is not possible to communicate with the minor child's parent in order to receive
15 the parent's consent; and
16 (2) It is necessary to act to prevent:
17 (a) Imminent, irreparable physical injury to the minor child; or
18 (b) The minor child's death.

19 **Section 6. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 26:**

- 20 The board of a school district, shall, in consultation with parents, teachers, and
21 administrators, adopt a policy to promote the involvement of parents of minor children
22 enrolled in the school district. The policy must include:
23 (1) A plan for parent participation in the school to improve parent and teacher
24 cooperation in areas of homework, attendance, and discipline; and
25 (2) The process by which a parent:
26 (a) Reviews the curriculum offered to the parent's minor child or is otherwise
27 informed about the course of study provided to the parent's minor child;
28 (b) May learn about the nature and purpose of clubs or other extracurricular
29 activities that have been approved by the school;
30 (c) Withdraws the parent's minor child from a school club or extracurricular
31 activity;
32 (d) Is notified of any instruction in or presentation on the topics of gender roles,
33 gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation;

(e) Provides consent to having the parent's minor child receive instruction in or attends a presentation on the topics of gender roles, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation;

(f) May object to any specific instruction or presentation provided to the parent's minor child;

(g) May withdraw the parent's minor child from any specific instruction or presentation if the parent considers the instruction or presentation harmful to the parent's minor child; and

(h) Provides consent before the parent's minor child may use a name or nickname other than the minor child's legal name or a derivative or diminutive of the minor child's legal name.

Section 7. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 26:

A school district shall allow the parent of a minor child enrolled in the school district to access all written and electronic records concerning the parent's minor child that are in the possession of the school district, a district employee, or other person hired, contracted, or authorized by the school district to provide services to the parent's minor child.

Section 8. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 26:

An employee of a school district may not withhold or conceal information from or facilitate, encourage, or coerce a minor child to withhold or conceal information from, the minor child's parent about the minor child's:

(1) Curricular or extracurricular projects, assignments, or activities;

(2) Physical, emotional, or mental health; or

(3) Purported gender identity or requested transition, provided that the purported gender identity is incongruous with the minor child's biological sex.

Section 9. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 26:

A parent may submit a written complaint to the board of a school district, detailing any violation of sections 6 to 8, inclusive, of this Act. The parent is entitled to a meeting with the superintendent of the school district to discuss the complaint. The superintendent shall investigate the complaint and respond to the parent in writing within fourteen days of receiving the complaint. The response provided by the superintendent must describe the actions that the district is to take in order to remedy the parent's complaint.

1 A parent may appeal the actions of the superintendent to the board of the school
2 district by submitting a written complaint detailing the violation of sections 6 to 8, inclusive
3 of this Act and a description of how the actions taken by the superintendent failed to
4 resolve the complaint. The board shall investigate the complaint and shall meet with the
5 parent to discuss the complaint. The board shall adopt a plan of action to remedy the
6 complaint at the first meeting of the board following receipt of the complaint.

7 If the board's plan of action does not remedy the parent's complaint, the parent
8 may file suit and assert a violation of sections 6 to 8, inclusive, of this Act as a claim
9 against the school district. A parent who successfully asserts a claim or defense under this
10 section may recover declaratory relief, injunctive relief, liquidated damages of five
11 thousand dollars per violation, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, and any other
12 appropriate relief.

13 **Section 10. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 26:**

14 A parent may bring suit for a violation of this chapter and may raise this chapter
15 as a defense in any judicial or administrative proceeding, without regard to whether the
16 proceeding is brought by or in the name of the state, a private person, or other party.

17 A parent who successfully asserts a claim or defense under this chapter may
18 recover declaratory relief, injunctive relief, compensatory damages, reasonable attorneys'
19 fees and costs, and any other appropriate relief.

20 A state agency or political subdivision of this state shall indemnify the employees
21 of the state or political subdivision for any liability incurred by the employee and for any
22 judgement entered against the employee for claims arising under this chapter. A state
23 agency or political subdivision of this state is not required to indemnify an employee if the
24 employee was convicted of a criminal violation for the conduct from which the claim arises.