



2026 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Commemoration 803

Introduced by: **Senator Deibert**

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION honoring the city of Deadwood on its 150th**
2 **anniversary.**

3 WHEREAS, established in 1876 during the Black Hills Gold Rush, Deadwood has played a
4 significant role in American history, and with its 150 years of legendary stories, dynamic
5 culture, and unwavering spirit, the city has captured the imagination of generations; and

6 WHEREAS, Deadwood originated as an illegal settlement on land that had been officially
7 granted by the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie to the Lakota people, but despite these outlaw
8 beginnings, the town quickly evolved into a bustling frontier community, and gold seekers,
9 entrepreneurs, and notorious characters such as Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane flocked
10 to Deadwood, transforming the city into a symbol of the American West's promises and perils;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, over the course of 150 years, Deadwood has journeyed from a rough-and-
13 tumble mining town to a cherished historic destination with a meticulously preserved, historic
14 main street and iconic saloons; and

15 WHEREAS, it also hosts annual events to keep the spirit of the Old West alive, as visitors
16 from around the globe travel to Deadwood to witness reenactments, try their luck at casinos,
17 explore museums, and enjoy the rugged, scenic beauty of the Black Hills region; and

18 WHEREAS, Deadwood's legacy extends beyond its tales of gold, guns, and grit; and

19 WHEREAS, its story is one of resilience, transformation, and the enduring magnetism of
20 the Western frontier; and

21 WHEREAS, as Deadwood looks back on its 150 years, the city honors its vibrant past and
22 reaffirms its ongoing dedication to historical preservation, community spirit, and hospitality;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the One Hundred First Legislature of the
2 State of South Dakota, that the legislature invites all citizens of South Dakota to join in
3 recognizing the city of Deadwood's 150th anniversary, and celebrating Deadwood's heritage
4 and continued contributions to the state and nation.