



## 2026 South Dakota Legislature

# House Bill 1320

Introduced by: **Representative** Randolph

1 **An Act to revise provisions related to service of process for counties and boards of**  
 2 **county commissioners.**

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

4 **Section 1. That § 7-8-29 be AMENDED:**

5 **7-8-29.** Such appeal shall be taken within twenty days after the publication of the  
 6 decision of the board by serving ~~a~~ written notice ~~on one of the members of the board,~~ as  
 7 set forth in subdivision 15-6-4(d)(2)(i) when the appeal is taken by any person aggrieved  
 8 by the decision of the board, and upon the person or persons affected by the decision of  
 9 the board when the appeal is taken by the state's attorney; ~~and the county auditor shall~~  
 10 ~~upon.~~

11 Upon the filing of the required bond and the payment of ~~his~~ fees, which ~~shall be~~  
 12 ~~the same as allowed registers~~ are equal to those imposed by a register of deeds for like  
 13 services, the county auditor shall make out a complete transcript of the proceedings of  
 14 the board relating to the matter of ~~its~~ the board's decision and deliver the ~~same~~ transcript  
 15 to the clerk of courts.

16 **Section 2. That § 15-6-4(d) be AMENDED:**

17 **15-6-4(d).** The summons shall be served by delivering a copy thereof. Service in  
 18 the following manner shall constitute personal service:

19 (1) If the action is against a business entity, on the president, partner or other head  
 20 of the entity, officer, director, or registered agent thereof. If any of the above  
 21 cannot be conveniently found, service may be made by leaving a copy of the  
 22 summons and complaint at any office of such business entity within this state, with  
 23 the person in charge of such office;

24 (i) A business entity for purposes of this subdivision shall include, but not be  
 25 limited to:

- 1                   A.     Domestic and foreign corporations;  
2                   B.     Domestic and foreign partnerships;  
3                   C.     Limited liability companies;  
4                   D.     Entities with fictitious names; and  
5                   E.     Any entity required to have a registered agent with the Secretary of  
6                             State.
- 7       (2)     If the action is against a public corporation within this state, service may be made  
8       as follows:
- 9           (i)     Upon a county, by serving upon any county administrator, auditor,  
10           commissioner, executive, or any registered agent of the county or board of  
11           county commissioners. Any service made pursuant to this section  
12           constitutes service upon the county and the board of county commissioners;
- 13           (ii)    Upon a first or second class municipality, by serving upon the mayor or any  
14           alderman or commissioner;
- 15           (iii)   Upon a third class municipality, by serving upon any trustee;
- 16           (iv)    Upon an organized township, by serving upon any supervisor;
- 17           (v)     Upon any school district, by serving upon any member of the school board  
18           or board of education; and
- 19           (vi)    Upon a consumers power district, by serving upon any member of the board  
20           of directors;
- 21       (3)     If the action is against a minor, upon a parent or person having custody, and if the  
22       minor is over the age of fourteen years, then also upon such minor personally, and  
23       in any event upon the legally appointed guardian, guardian ad litem or conservator,  
24       if there is one;
- 25       (4)     If the action is against a person judicially declared to be mentally incompetent, or  
26       who is a patient at an institution for persons with mental illnesses or developmental  
27       disabilities or for whom a guardian or conservator has been legally appointed, upon  
28       such guardian or conservator, and upon the administrator or superintendent of  
29       such institutions for persons with mental illnesses or developmental disabilities, or  
30       person having custody, and also upon the person with mental illness or a  
31       developmental disability; provided that if the person with mental illness or a  
32       developmental disability is a patient of an institution for persons with mental  
33       illnesses or developmental disabilities, and the administrator or superintendent  
34       thereof shall certify in writing that service upon such person personally would be

- 1 unavailing or injurious to his physical or mental well-being, and such certificate be  
2 filed, service upon such individual may be dispensed with by order of court;
- 3 (5) If the action is against the state or any of its institutions, departments, or agencies,  
4 by service upon such officer or employee as may be designated by the statute  
5 authorizing such action, and upon the attorney general. In all matters involving  
6 title to land owned or held in trust by the state or any of its institutions,  
7 departments, or agencies, upon the commissioner of school and public lands and  
8 the attorney general. In all matters other than those involving title to such lands,  
9 if no officer or employee is designated, then upon the Governor and the attorney  
10 general. Any of such officers or employees referred to in § 15-6-4 may admit  
11 service of the summons with the same legal effect as if it had been personally  
12 served upon them by an officer or elector;
- 13 (6) If the action is against a state officer, employee or agent arising out of his office,  
14 employment or agency, a copy of the summons and complaint shall be mailed,  
15 certified mail, postage prepaid to the attorney general together with an admission  
16 of service and a return envelope, postage prepaid, addressed to the sender. The  
17 executed admission of service shall be filed by the sender in accordance with § 15-  
18 6-5(d);
- 19 (7) Whenever the manner of service of process is specified in any statute or rule  
20 relating to any action, remedy or special proceedings the manner of service so  
21 specified shall be followed;
- 22 (8) In all other cases, to the defendant personally; and
- 23 (9) If the action is against a person or business entity in a foreign country, service may  
24 be made as follows:
- 25 (i) By an internationally agreed means reasonably calculated to give notice,  
26 such as those means authorized by the Hague Convention on the service  
27 abroad of judicial and extrajudicial documents; or
- 28 (ii) If there is no internationally agreed means of service, service reasonably  
29 calculated to give notice may be made:
- 30 (A) In the manner prescribed by the law of the foreign country for  
31 service in that country in an action in any of its courts of general  
32 jurisdiction;
- 33 (B) As directed by the foreign authority in response to a letter rogatory  
34 or letter request; or

1 (C) Unless prohibited by the law of the foreign country; by delivery to  
2 the individual personally; upon a corporation, limited liability  
3 company, limited partnership or partnership or association, by  
4 delivery to an officer, or a managing, general or registered agent;  
5 or by any form of mail requiring a signed receipt; or

6 (iii) As directed by the court.

7 Service under this subdivision may be made by any person authorized by § 15-6-  
8 4(c), anyone duly authorized to serve lawful summons by the law of the country where  
9 service is to be made, pursuant to the applicable treaty or convention, or by anyone  
10 designated by order of the court or the foreign court. Proof of service may be made as  
11 prescribed in § 15-6-4(g), pursuant to the applicable treaty or convention, by order of the  
12 court, or by law of the foreign country. Proof of service by mail shall include an affidavit  
13 or certificate of addressing and mailing.