



## 2026 South Dakota Legislature

# Senate Bill 190

SENATE JUDICIARY ENGROSSED

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, and consents to having the parent's minor child receive, any  
 33            instruction in or presentation on human sexuality, human sexual behavior,

- 1                   gender identity disconnected from or inconsistent with the biological reality  
 2                   of an individual's sex, or the idea that an individual is able to identify with  
 3                   a gender that corresponds to an individual's internal and subjective sense  
 4                   of self, disconnected from the biological reality of the minor's sex;  
 5           (e)   May object to any specific instruction or presentation provided to the  
 6                   parent's minor child;  
 7           (f)   May withdraw the parent's minor child from any specific instruction or  
 8                   presentation if the parent considers the instruction or presentation harmful  
 9                   to the parent's minor child; and  
 10           (g)   Provides consent before the parent's minor child may use a name or  
 11                   nickname other than the minor child's legal name or a derivative or  
 12                   diminutive of the minor child's legal name.

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

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

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

19                   An employee of a school district may not withhold or conceal information from or  
 20                   facilitate, encourage, or coerce a minor child to withhold or conceal information from, the  
 21                   minor child's parent about the minor child's:  
 22                   (1)   Curricular or extracurricular projects, assignments, or activities;  
 23                   (2)   Physical, emotional, or mental health; or  
 24                   (3)   Purported identification with a gender that corresponds to the minor child's internal  
 25                   and subjective sense of self, disconnected from the biological reality of the minor  
 26                   child's sex.

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

28                   A parent may submit a written complaint to the board of a school district, detailing  
 29                   any violation of sections 6 to 8, inclusive, of this Act. The parent is entitled to a meeting  
 30                   with the superintendent of the school district to discuss the complaint. The superintendent  
 31                   shall investigate the complaint and respond to the parent in writing within fourteen days

1 of receiving the complaint. The response provided by the superintendent must describe  
2 the actions that the district is to take in order to remedy the parent's complaint.

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

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

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

16 For the purposes of sections 6 to 9, inclusive, of this Act, "school district" does not  
17 include any public institution of higher education, provided that the parent of a minor child  
18 retains the parent's rights under this Act and any other applicable federal law, as applied  
19 to a school district, if the parent's child is enrolled in a dual enrollment course offered by  
20 the school district and a public institution of higher education.

21 **Section 11. That a NEW SECTION be added to a NEW CHAPTER in title 26:**

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

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

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