



2026 South Dakota Legislature

House Commemoration 8018

Introduced by: **Representative Derby**

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the**
2 **creation of the Legislative Research Council.**

3 WHEREAS, the Legislative Research Council is celebrating its seventy-fifth year of service
4 to the South Dakota Legislature, having been established in 1951 by the Thirty-Second South
5 Dakota Legislature; and

6 WHEREAS, recognizing the need for permanent, nonpartisan staff to support the
7 Legislature, University of South Dakota government professor Dr. William O. Farber developed
8 the unique structure of the Legislative Research Council, later codified in state law, consisting
9 of "all members of the South Dakota Legislature", empowered to hire a dedicated staff, and
10 charged with the responsibility to "consider legislative policies between sessions of the
11 Legislature"; and

12 WHEREAS, from its humble beginnings with only one staff member, the Legislative
13 Research Council has developed into a professional agency of thirty-two full-time employees,
14 supported by numerous committee secretaries, front desk clerks, sergeants-at-arms, and
15 other session-only personnel; and

16 WHEREAS, while the role of the Legislative Research Council has evolved over the
17 decades, the Council continues to support and strengthen the legislative institution by
18 providing objective and vital services in legislative operations, information technology, bill
19 drafting and research, and fiscal analysis; and

20 WHEREAS, the Legislature's permanent staff has supported hundreds of committees,
21 drafted thousands of bills, resolved complex legislative and operational challenges, assisted
22 in the completion of the state's budget, and worked to modernize the Legislature's operations
23 and technology; and

1 WHEREAS, much of the work performed by the Legislative Research Council occurs
2 behind-the-scenes so that members of the Legislature can focus their efforts on public
3 policymaking and representing the people of South Dakota;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the One Hundred First Legislature of the
5 State of South Dakota, that the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Legislative Research Council
6 is celebrated and recognized, and its dedicated staff, both past and present, are commended
7 for their steadfast service to the legislative institution.