

MINUTES

Government Operations and Audit



Senator Taffy Howard, Chair
Representative Marty Overweg, Vice Chair

Sixth Meeting, 2025 Interim
Thursday, November 13, 2025

Room 412 – State Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota

The fifth interim meeting of the Government Operations and Audit was called to order by Senator Taffy Howard at 9:00 a.m. (CT) on Thursday, November 13, 2025, in Room 412 of the State Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota.

A quorum was determined with the following members answering roll call: Senators Red Dawn Foster, Chris Karr, Mark Lapka, and Ernie Otten (remote); Representatives Julie Auch, Eric Emery, Karla Lems (remote), and Scott Moore; Representative Marty Overweg, Vice Chair; and Senator Taffy Howard, Chair.

Staff members present included Mitch Honan, Fiscal Analyst; and Michelle Deyo-Amende, Administrative Specialist.

NOTE: For the purpose of continuity, the following minutes are not necessarily in chronological order. All referenced documents distributed at the meeting are hyperlinked to the document on the Legislative Research Council website. This meeting was live streamed. Each section contains a hyperlink to the time stamp pertaining to that item in the archived live stream available at sdlegislature.gov.

Approval of Minutes

Representative Overweg moved, seconded by Representative Auch, to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2025, meeting. The motion prevailed on a voice vote. ([00:49.340](#))

Annual Accountability Reports from the Technical Institutes

Mr. Nick Wendell, Executive Director, South Dakota Board of Technical Education, presented the annual accountability report. ([02:43.080](#))

Ms. Tiffany Sanderson, President, Lake Area Technical College, Watertown, answered Committee questions regarding Lake Area Technical College's computer science, networking, cyber security, and programming languages curriculum. ([36:08.880](#))

Ms. Teresa Kriese, President, Mitchell Technical College, Mitchell, answered questions regarding student internships and transferability of credits earned at South Dakota technical colleges to four-year liberal arts institutions. ([48:36.820](#))

Representative Overweg moved, seconded by Senator Karr, to accept the accountability report from the Technical Institutes. The motion prevailed unanimously on a voice vote. ([53:40.320](#))

Performance Management Reviews

Ms. Wanda Goodman, Deputy Secretary, South Dakota Department of Tourism (TOUR), presented the South Dakota Department of Tourism report and answered Committee questions. ([54:40.800](#))

Mr. Joe Graves, Secretary, Department of Education (DOE), presented the South Dakota Department of Education report and answered Committee questions. [\(01:30:31.830\)](#)

Mr. Joel Jundt, Secretary, Department of Transportation (DOT), presented the DOT report and answered committee questions. [\(02:57:08.210\)](#)

Mr. Mike Behm, Director of Planning and Engineering, DOT, presented information on the Strategic Highway Safety Plan that is developed every five years in partnership with the South Dakota Department of Public Safety. [\(03:13:54.950\)](#)

Senator Karr moved, seconded by Representative Overweg, to accept the performance management reports as presented. The motion prevailed on a roll call vote with 8 AYES and 2 EXCUSED. Voting AYE: Foster, Karr, Lapka, Howard, Auch, Emery, Moore, and Overweg. EXCUSED Otten and Lems. [\(03:25:17.490\)](#)

Committee members noted the need for the DOE to provide reporting to the Committee on an annual basis. [\(03:22:26.890\)](#)

Senator Karr moved, seconded by Representative Auch, that GOAC conduct an annual review of the Department of Education performance until the department is able to report that it meets at least 75 percent of the department's performance metrics. The motion prevailed on a roll call vote with 8 AYES and 2 EXCUSED. Voting AYE: Foster, Karr, Lapka, Howard, Auch, Emery, Moore, and Overweg. EXCUSED: Otten and Lems. [\(03:25:49.610\)](#)

Incident Reports Involving Abuse and Neglect in Contracted Facilities

Representative Overweg moved, seconded by Representative Moore, to go into executive session. The motion prevailed on a voice vote. [\(03:31:03.230\)](#)

The Committee went into executive session at 12:31 p.m.

The Committee came out of executive session at 1:49 p.m.

Ms. Kristi Bunkers, Director of Juvenile Services, Department of Corrections (DOC), presented the incident report involving abuse and neglect in contracted State facilities for juveniles within South Dakota while the Committee was in executive session due to the confidential nature of the report.

Representative Moore moved, seconded by Representative Auch, to accept the incident report from the Department of Corrections and the Director of Juvenile Services. The motion prevailed on a roll call vote with 8 AYES and 2 excused. Voting AYE: Lapka, Otten, Howard, Auch, Emery, Lems, Moore, and Overweg. EXCUSED: Foster and Karr [\(03:33:31.970\)](#)

Updated Report on Housing Opportunity Fund and the Housing Infrastructure Financing Program

Mr. Chas Olson, Executive Director, South Dakota Housing Development Authority (SDHDA), presented an updated report on the Housing Opportunity Fund and the Housing Infrastructure Financing Program. [\(03:34:41.540\)](#)

Representative Auch moved, seconded by Representative Moore, to accept the report from the Housing Opportunity Fund and the Housing Infrastructure Financing Program. The motion prevailed on a roll call vote with 9 AYES and 1 EXCUSED. Voting AYE: Foster, Karr, Otten, Howard, Auch, Emery, Lems, Moore, and Overweg. EXCUSED: Lapka. [\(04:00:41.120\)](#)

University Centers Financial Review

Mr. Jay Perry, Vice President, University of South Dakota (USD) Sioux Falls Campus, presented information regarding the USD University Center in Sioux Falls. [\(04:01:43.820\)](#)

Ms. Julie Creek, USD Vice President for Finance and Administration, answered questions regarding expenses, current staffing levels, and expectations for growth. [\(04:13:17.500\)](#)

Mr. Steve Elliot, President, Black Hills University Center in Rapid City Campus, (BHSU); Ms. Kathy Johnson, Vice President, Finance and Administration; and Dr. Ashley Armstrong, Vice President, Rapid City Campus, presented the financial review for the BHSU university center in Rapid City. [\(04:30:48.850\)](#)

Representative Moore moved, seconded by Representative Overweg, to accept the University Center reports. The motion prevailed on a roll call vote with 9 AYES and 1 EXCUSED. Voting AYE: Foster, Karr, Otten, Howard, Auch, Emery, Lems, Moore, and Overweg. EXCUSED: Lapka. (04:54:30.150)

Consideration of Changes to Performance Measures

Representative Auch moved, seconded by Representative Overweg, to accept the Department of Transportation performance metrics without change. The motion prevailed on a roll call vote with 9 AYES and 1 EXCUSED. Voting AYE: Foster, Karr, Otten, Howard, Auch, Emery, Moore, and Overweg. EXCUSED: Lems. (05:10:49.090)

Representative Overweg moved, seconded by Representative Auch, to accept the Department of Education performance metrics without change. The motion prevailed on a roll call vote with 9 AYES and 1 EXCUSED. Voting AYE: Foster, Karr, Otten, Howard, Auch, Emery, Moore, and Overweg. EXCUSED: Lems. (05:11:35.730)

Representative Overweg moved, seconded by Senator Lapka, to accept the Department of Tourism performance metrics without change. The motion prevailed on a roll call vote with 9 AYES and 1 EXCUSED. Voting AYE: Foster, Karr, Otten, Howard, Auch, Emery, Moore, and Overweg. EXCUSED: Lems. (05:12:28.670)

Representative Auch moved, seconded by Senator Lapka, to accept the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources performance metrics without change. The motion prevailed on a roll call vote with 9 AYES and 1 EXCUSED. Voting AYE: Foster, Karr, Otten, Howard, Auch, Emery, Moore, and Overweg. EXCUSED: Lems. (05:13:17.210)

Representative Overweg moved, seconded by Senator Karr, to accept all the recommended changes from the Department of Public Safety performance measures. The motion prevailed on a roll call vote with 9 AYES and 1 EXCUSED. Voting AYE: Foster, Karr, Otten, Howard, Auch, Emery, Moore, and Overweg. EXCUSED: Lems. (05:14:51.690)

Representative Moore moved, seconded by Representative Auch, to accept all the recommended changes from the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks performance measures. The motion prevailed on a roll call vote with 9 AYES and 1 EXCUSED. Voting AYE: Foster, Karr, Otten, Howard, Auch, Emery, Moore, and Overweg. EXCUSED: Lems. (05:18:53.670)

Representative Auch moved, seconded by Senator Karr, to accept all the recommended changes from the Governor's Office of Economic Development performance measures. The motion prevailed on a roll call vote with 9 AYES and 1 EXCUSED. Voting AYE: Foster, Karr, Otten, Howard, Auch, Emery, Moore, and Overweg. EXCUSED: Lems. (05:26:20.290)

Update on the KNOWiNK Contract

Ms. Monae Johnson, South Dakota Secretary of State, spoke regarding the status of the KNOWiNK contract. [\(05:27:51.530\)](#)

Public Comments

The following individuals provided public comment:

Ms. Meta Halverson, Whitewood, South Dakota, self [\(05:55:56.480\)](#)

Mr. Mark Nelson, Philip, South Dakota, self [\(06:00:15.020\)](#)

Mr. Brandon Johnson, Pierre, South Dakota, self [\(06:19:34.730\)](#)

Ms. Jessica Polema, South Dakota Canvassing Group [\(06:02:11.000\)](#)

Ms. Cindy Meyer, self [\(06:06:52.860\)](#)

Ms. Leah Anderson, Minnehaha County Auditor [\(06:08:16.080\)](#)

Ms. Cindy Cook, self [\(06:14:18.290\)](#)

Ms. Linda Montgomery, self [\(06:16:43.390\)](#)

Discussion of Potential Committee Bills

The Committee discussed [Draft 238](#). [\(06:28:06.270\)](#)

Representative Auch moved, seconded by Representative Emery, to support the concept of Draft 238 as a committee and introduce it as a committee-sponsored bill during the 2026 Legislative session. The motion prevailed on a roll call vote with 6 AYES, 1 NAY, and 3 EXCUSED. VOTING AYE: Karr, Howard, Auch, Emery, Moore, and Overweg. VOTING NAY: Otten. EXCUSED: Foster, Lapka, and Lems. (06:41:58.910)

The Committee discussed [Draft 241](#). [\(06:43:21.530\)](#)

Representative Emery moved, seconded by Representative Auch, to introduce Draft 241 as a Committee bill. The motion prevailed on a roll call vote with 7 AYES, 1 NAY, and 2 EXCUSED. Voting AYE: Foster, Karr, Howard, Auch, Emery, Moore, and Overweg. Voting NAY: Otten. EXCUSED: Lapka and Lems. (06:46:15.310)

The Committee discussed [Draft 330](#). [\(06:49:00.050\)](#)

Representative Auch moved, seconded by Senator Foster, to introduce Draft 330 as a Committee bill. The motion failed on a roll call vote with 5 AYES, 3 NAYS, and 2 EXCUSED. Voting AYE: Foster, Karr, Howard, Auch, and Emery. Voting NAY: Otten, Moore, and Overweg. EXCUSED: Lapka and Lems. (06:54:48.530)

Adjournment

Representative Moore moved, seconded by Representative Auch, that the Government Operations and Audit Committee be adjourned. The motion prevailed on a voice vote. [\(06:58:58.870\)](#)

The Government Operations and Audit adjourned at 5:18 p.m. (CT).