

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-FIFTH SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2010

852R0705

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Introduced by: Senators Gant, Abdallah, Adelstein, Ahlers, Bartling, Bradford, Brown, Dempster, Fryslie, Garnos, Gillespie, Gray, Hansen (Tom), Hanson (Gary), Haverly, Heidepriem, Howie, Hundstad, Hunhoff (Jean), Jerstad, Kloucek, Knudson, Maher, Merchant, Miles, Nelson, Nesselhuf, Novstrup (Al), Olson (Russell), Peterson, Rhoden, Schmidt, Tieszen, Turbak Berry, and Vehle and Representatives Gosch, Blake, Bolin, Boomgarden, Brunner, Burg, Carson, Conzet, Cronin, Curd, Cutler, Deadrick, Dennert, Elliott, Engels, Faehn, Fargen, Feickert, Feinstein, Frerichs, Gibson, Greenfield, Hamiel, Hoffman, Hunhoff (Bernie), Hunt, Jensen, Juhnke, Killer, Kirkeby, Kirschman, Kopp, Krebs, Lange, Lederman, Lucas, Lust, McLaughlin, Moser, Noem, Novstrup (David), Nygaard, Olson (Betty), Olson (Ryan), Peters, Pitts, Putnam, Rausch, Rave, Romkema, Rounds, Russell, Schlekeway, Schrempp, Sly, Solberg, Solum, Sorenson, Steele, Street, Thompson, Tidemann, Turbiville, Van Gerpen, Vanderlinde, Vanneman, Verchio, Wink, and Wismer

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the South
2 Dakota State Capitol.

3 WHEREAS, on October 1, 1889, the citizens of the southern Dakota Territory adopted a
4 constitution, elected their first state officials, and selected the city of Pierre as their temporary
5 capital; and

6 WHEREAS, on November 4, 1890, the citizens of the state of South Dakota selected the
7 city of Pierre as their permanent capital in competition with the city of Huron. On November 8,
8 1904, the citizens of the state of South Dakota again selected the city of Pierre as their
9 permanent capital after a spirited campaign with the city of Mitchell; and



1 WHEREAS, the 1905 South Dakota Legislature authorized the construction of a permanent
2 State Capitol. The building was constructed between 1905 and 1910. The plans for the building
3 were designed by the Minneapolis architectural office of C.E. Bell and M.S. Detwiler. The
4 building is based on a design similar to the Montana State Capitol in Helena, Montana. The
5 planning process and construction costs were almost \$1,000,000; and

6 WHEREAS, on June 25, 1908, the granite cornerstone embossed with the Great Seal of
7 South Dakota was ceremonially placed. State employees moved into the new State Capitol on
8 May 1, 1910, and the building was officially dedicated on June 30, 1910; and

9 WHEREAS, from the first floor, a marble staircase leads upstairs. On the second floor, the
10 Grand Marble Staircase was constructed of white cloud marble shipped from the states of
11 Tennessee and Vermont. The stained glass ceiling area above this staircase is referred to as the
12 vault. The staircase opens onto a rotunda and the word, rotunda, means "under the dome." The
13 distance from the rotunda floor to the very top center black circle of the dome is ninety-six feet.
14 It is another sixty-five feet to the top of the copper outer dome. A Greek-Roman architectural
15 style was used in constructing the Capitol. This style of architecture contains much symbolism,
16 which is reflected in each level of the dome. The bottom ring is designed to resemble a string
17 of ribbons joined together, which is meant to symbolize the eternal nature of government. The
18 interior of the dome is decorated with sixteen images of the Tree of Life. The dome also
19 displays acanthus leaves to represent wisdom and a pasque flower, which is the state flower; and

20 WHEREAS, in each corner under the dome are large murals of Greek goddesses which
21 symbolize major interests in South Dakota. These murals were painted in 1910 by Edward
22 Simons and still represent South Dakota as we know it today. Below each mural are Seals of
23 Sovereignty. The purple-clothed goddess mural symbolizes livestock, and the seal under this
24 mural represents France. The green-clothed goddess symbolizes industry and mining, and the

1 seal under this mural represents Spain. Both Spain and France at one time owned the land now
2 called South Dakota. The pink and white goddess mural symbolizes the love of family and state,
3 and the seal under this mural is the State Seal of South Dakota. The golden-clothed goddess
4 symbolizes agriculture, and the seal under this mural is the Seal of the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, the third floor houses the state's House of Representatives and the state's
6 Senate. The galleries for both, from which the public can observe the legislative process, are
7 located on the fourth floor; and

8 WHEREAS, the House chamber accommodates two members from each of thirty-five
9 legislative districts. The ceiling of the House chamber features Victorian leaded stained glass.
10 At the front of the chambers, ceiling level, is the largest painting in the Capitol. The painting
11 is entitled, "The Peace That Passes Understanding," by Charles Holloway. The rolltop desks in
12 the House are constructed of oak wood, which in 1910 was less expensive than mahogany. The
13 House chamber is larger in size than the Senate. Instead of marble columns, there are columns
14 made of plaster which have been elaborately decorated; and

15 WHEREAS, the Senate chamber accommodates one person from each of the thirty-five
16 legislative districts and appears to be decorated a little more lavishly than the House of
17 Representatives. At the time when the decorating budgets were made, both chambers were given
18 the same dollar amount. Since there were twice as many legislators in the House as the Senate,
19 the Representatives had to spend their budget prudently. The Senate chamber lower wall area
20 around the third floor is marble and the rolltop desks are constructed of cherry wood which has
21 been stained a dark mahogany. A canvas painting, at top ceiling level, is entitled, "The
22 Louisiana Purchase," by Charles Holloway. The ceiling of the Senate chamber is Victorian
23 stained glass, cathedral in shape, which corresponds with the shape of the room; and

24 WHEREAS, the columns in the Capitol are scagliola, which is a man-made marble. This

1 style comes from Italy and it is considered a lost art. The components that make up the scagliola
2 overlay are milk, ink, marble dust, and yarn. Under the scagliola layer is a cement pillar with
3 a steel rod through the middle. In 1910 it cost approximately one hundred dollars to make a
4 scagliola column, in comparison to one thousand dollars to make a marble column; and

5 WHEREAS, the floor in the capitol building is made of terrazzo tile, which is said to have
6 been laid by sixty-six Italian artists. To give these artists a chance to place their signatures in the
7 building, each was given a blue stone to place in the floor. However, only fifty-five of the blue
8 stones have been found, and, it is thought that the remaining stones may have been placed in
9 locations now covered by walls, doors, or carpeting; and

10 WHEREAS, the marble floor area inside the north entrance door is different from the Italian
11 terrazzo tile used throughout the rest of the building. The reason for the dark marble floor here
12 is that this portion of the building was added on to the main Capitol in 1932 and is referred to
13 as the annex of the Capitol; and

14 WHEREAS, in anticipation of South Dakota's state centennial in 1989, the building was
15 extensively renovated and restored during the administrations of Governors Richard F. Kneip,
16 Harvey L. Wollman, Bill Janklow, and George S. Mickelson. The renovation took twenty-two
17 years and restored much of the building and its decoration, including the tile floor, to its original
18 appearance. The tiled floor was repaired and each of the tile workers who did the repairs is said
19 to have been given a heart-shaped stone with which to sign the new floor, as the original
20 workers had done:

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Eighty-fifth Legislature of
22 the State of South Dakota, and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the State
23 Capitol has faithfully served the people of South Dakota for one hundred years and remains the
24 center of South Dakota government; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the people of South Dakota commemorate the one
2 hundredth anniversary of this great historic building with events on March 1 and June 19, 2010,
3 in Pierre.