

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

REVISED
AGENDA ITEM: 3 – J
DATE: March 29-30, 2023

SUBJECT

2023 Legislative Overview

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[BOR Policy 1:5, Section C.2 \(2.9\)](#)

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The 2023 South Dakota Legislature ended with Veto Day on March 25, 2023. This agenda item provides a brief, high-level review of major legislative activity in the session just concluded.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2023 legislative session marks another year of historic support for the public higher education system (over \$59 million in state general funds). This includes the second year in a row of base general funds to support all Board of Regents employees' salaries and benefits as well as cybersecurity and infrastructure funding.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – 2023 Legislative Summary

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

2023

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

73 BILLS TRACKED*(36 priority and 37 other bills of interest)*

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Historic support for public higher education – Once again we have received outstanding support from both the South Dakota Legislature and Gov. Kristi Noem. Significant investments were made in both one-time and ongoing funding in the public universities and special schools. State employee salary policy was budgeted at a 7.0% increase, effective July 1, 2023. The regents' system stands to benefit from increased funding support in these broad categories:
 - General funds: \$59.2 million
 - Federal funds: \$0.5 million
 - Other funds authority: \$18.9 million

 - ❖ Tuition Freeze – The state historically covers less than half of the salary and benefit package for employees in the public university system. That means tuition, fees, and student charges are raised internally to cover the rest of the obligation. For the second year in a row, the Governor and Legislature agreed to an additional \$12.4 million in base general funds to support all BOR salaries and health insurance increases.

 - ❖ Infrastructure – The Board focused this legislative session on existing infrastructure needs. Several bills passed providing additional funds for large inflationary increases in constructions costs as well as additional maintenance and repair costs.
-
-

BILLS PASSED - BOARD PRIORITY

- HB1030 – SDSU Bioproducts facility (\$3,000,000 general funds)
- HB1032 – SDSU agricultural-use structures (\$7,250,000 other fund expenditure authority)
- HB1039 – 100% tuition for SD National Guard members (\$1,971,851 general funds)
- SB172 – BHSU-RC health services center (\$1.5M general funds)
- SB173 – NSU Lincoln Hall (\$1.5M general funds)
- SB33 – SDSMT Mineral Industries building (\$4,400,000 general funds and \$3,400,000 other fund expenditure authority)
- SB34 – DSU sale of Lake County property
- SB37 – SDSU name change
- SB93 – DSU Athletic Events Center (\$14,941,250 other fund expenditure authority)

BILLS PASSED – OTHER TOPICS

- HB1055 – increase dollar amount for SD Opportunity Scholarship (increase total award from \$6,500 to \$7,500)
- SB10 – expand certification options for interpreters for the deaf
- SB179 – SDS&TA board member addition (SDSM&T President and BHSU President ex-officio members)
- HB1153 – update to travel and moving allowance
- HB1060 – changes in procurement requirements (bid requirements changed from \$25,000 to \$50,000)
- SB118 – expand eligibility for reduced tuition to certain preschool teachers (\$25,000 general funds)
- SB162 – allows for public comment at official meetings even if not regularly scheduled, unless solely meeting in executive session
- SB182 – Board of Education shall establish a uniform method for calculating high school credits a student receives for a postsecondary course
- SB189 – prohibits state agencies from contracting with companies owned or controlled by certain foreign entities or governments

BILLS PASSED – GENERAL BUDGET BILLS

- SB210 – General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2024
 - HB1049 – Revise General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (includes funds for cybersecurity upgrade and maintenance and repair)
-