



2024 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

68 BILLS TRACKED
(35 priority and 33 other bills of interest)

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Remarkable support for public higher education – Once again, we 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 4.0% increase, effective July 1, 2024. The regents' system stands to benefit from increased funding support in these broad categories:
 - General funds: \$26.5 million
 - Federal funds authority: \$12.5 million
 - Other funds authority: \$11.63 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 third year in a row, the Governor and Legislature agreed to an additional \$5.7 million in base general funds to support all BOR salaries and health insurance increases. Our students will have immense cost savings from the fourth consecutive year of tuition freezes.

 - ❖ Infrastructure – The Board focused this legislative session on system-wide infrastructure needs. We received an additional \$2.1 million in ongoing maintenance and repair funding, as well as over \$16.8 million in one-time funds to cover existing infrastructure needs at our universities.
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BILLS PASSED - BOARD PRIORITY

- HB1049 – BHSU easement proceeds at BHSU – Rapid City
- HB1201 – NSU/DSU teacher apprenticeship pathway (\$800,000 general funds)
- SB45 – DSU/SDSMT Center for Quantum Information and Technology (\$3,034,444 general funds)

BILLS PASSED – OTHER TOPICS

- HB1020 – SDSBVI school district training for suicide prevention
- HB1022 – DOE will contract with the BOR for professional development in literacy for current teachers (\$6,000,000 general funds)
- HB1058 – licensure certification, job placements, and labor market data will be reported directly to the BOR
- HB1060 – updates and increases travel reimbursement rates for state employees
- HB1129 – repeals the construction of the dairy research and extension farm at SDSU
- HB1178 – prohibits obscene live conduct on a BOR campus
- HB1211 – repeals South Dakota’s membership in the Midwestern Regional Higher Education Compact
- SB1 – expand eligibility of reduced tuition to school counselors for up to 6 credits a year
- SB2 – allows individual school districts to determine the method for calculating the amount of high school credit that a student receives for completing a postsecondary course
- SB66 – increases the federal funding allocated for various state water, wastewater, and storm projects, including BOR projects
- SB76 – modifies provisions pertaining to gubernatorial appointments to a board or commission
- SB136 – expands a physician wellness program to SD School of Medicine students
- SB187 – establishes a local government cybersecurity services initiative, in which DSU will partner (\$7,000,000 general funds)
- SB198 – authorizes school districts (SDSBVI) to acquire and administer nasal glucagon

BILLS PASSED – GENERAL BUDGET BILLS

- HB1259 – General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2025
 - SB52 – Revise General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (includes funds for cybersecurity upgrade and maintenance and repair)
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