

SOUTH DAKOTA COUNSELING ASSOCIATION  
Legislative Report  
Week One – January 16, 2021

The first week of the 2021 Legislative began on January 12 and ends on March 11, 2021 with Veto Day on March 29. Most of the weeks are four- day weeks with two weeks being five days. There are 32 Republicans in the Senate and 3 Democrats. In the House there are 62 Republicans and 8 Democrats. All the information on the session can be found on the website [sdlegislature.gov](http://sdlegislature.gov).

Most of the first week was spent with speeches on the State of the State by the Governor, State of the Judiciary, and State of the Tribes. Most of these early bills are department bills and the Joint Appropriations Committee started hearing the department proposed budgets.

Major issues this session will be dealing with the budget and CARES money distribution, marijuana, education issues, broadband expansion, limited liability for Covid 19, and civics issues.

#### SENATE BILLS

- SB 5 – Includes a child’s legal parents and custodians in the list of parties who may receive information related to reports of the child’s abuse or neglect
- SB 7 – Permit Medicaid to qualify as a victim for purposed of restitution in criminal cases
- SB 14 – Limit the time children in need of supervision are held in detention under certain circumstances.
- SB 34 – Appropriation of \$100 million for broadband expansion
- SB 35 – Appropriation of \$4 million to Revenue and Health for implementation, regulation, taxation, etc of marijuana
- SB 45 – DOE bill to repeal the annual survey of schools for CPR- Senate Ed on Tuesday
- SB 46 – DOE bill to allow for consideration of certain instruction to count towards the minimum number of hours required in a school term- has emergency clause – Senate Ed on Tuesday
- SB 49 – Annual levy bill for state aid, special education – will be around all session as this is one of the last bills to pass once budget is decided – Senate Ed on Tuesday
- SB 64 – General appropriation bill for 2021 – what needs to be adjusted
- SB 68 – Provide for creation and funding of Oceti Sakowin community based school – charter school bill that takes funding from public schools, has regulation issues, and you should oppose.

#### HOUSE BILLS

- HB 1025 – DOE bill on deleting/revising certain outdated language related to education
- HB 1030,1031,1032, 1033 – Retirement bills
- HB 1044 – Transferring the Office of Indian Education to the Dept of Education
- HB 1046 – Limit liability for COVID 19 – includes non- profits, schools, businesses, insurance, etc –
- HB 1052 – Provides a rebuttable presumption in favor of joint physical custody of a minor child – same bill as we have seen for the past 10 years – they proponents want to start at 50/50 for custody of a child. Current law leaves the custody issue in the hands of the judge.
- HB 1055 – Authorizes certain children who are subject to military relocation to be eligible for registration with a state approved distance learning provider
- HB 1056 – Authorizes the designation of Purple Star Schools

There will be a bill on eliminating testing for home school kids, etc – education lobbyists are still negotiating this with the administration. We keep you updated. There will also be a broad civics bill, but we have not seen this yet – may deal with teacher training as well as content.

We are off on Monday. Have a great weekend and stay safe. If you have any questions, concerns, contact Rebecca and she will get it to me. Thanks for the opportunity to represent your organization.