



Dear SDSEO Member:

Week 1 of the 2024 Legislative Session is in the books. There were no bad surprises or negative bills this week. The tenor of the session is also good so far, with good questions and capable presentations. And even though I'm in my 13th session, I've even learned some new things from a couple hearings; that's courtesy of the legislators themselves seeking to expand their knowledge, and that's been a pleasant and surprising development. Sometimes one has to scratch their head at questions one would think a legislator would know after 5-6 years, but you know, not everyone pays attention.

The state employee compensation and health budget hearing will be the very last budget hearing on the very last day of Joint Appropriations budget hearings, like normal: Feb. 7 from 10:45 a.m. to noon. Here is the broad brushstroke of the Governor's plan for state employees:

<https://bfm.sd.gov/budget/FY2025/EmployeeCompensation.pdf>. The 4% market adjustment is there, as is the extra state kick in on your health insurance. I have asked but do not yet know why there's a decrease in federal funds for health insurance; we'll find out on Feb. 7. There are General and Other Funds to pick up the slack there, and hopefully you won't see added costs in the proposal on Feb. 7.

I've pitched a fit in the past about your comp and benefits being the very last budget item every year, as there have been so much scraps for the bulk of you in the recent past, but this Legislature, now in its second year, proved me wrong last year by really stepping up and helping you out with a big compensation package. I think how they are approaching their budget hearings is good, with good questions and information asks. I've also had really decent working relationships with legislators from all sorts of factions this last interim and so far this session. I think things are looking good, but we must be vigilant.

Here is our 2024 Legislative Session webpage: <https://sdseo.org/resources/2024legislativesession/>. It has quick links to the session things that I use for you. This year I included last year's links as well. Explore the page and the links and make to share with your colleagues, ALL of whom we need as members, not kidding. The recruiting needs to ramp way up. \$10 month to support this organization, the only of its kind in the state, is pretty darn inexpensive. (Yes, it's too much for some; we lost a longtime member this summer who couldn't afford it.) Dues haven't been raised for 13-14 years, and they're not going to get raised. We need participation. We need members. Keep the faith and keep up the fight.

All of the SDSEO's funding comes from membership; outfits like this receive zero state or federal dollars or incentives or tax breaks. While so much of the non-profit universe is focused on 501c(3) charities that were created to seek donations and then give the funds away to hard-pressed folks either in the form of cash or in the form of services, professional and labor non-profits such as the SDSEO are important too. Non-profit organizations like the SDSEO exist to help create and maintain healthy careers and service,

hopefully keeping charities in the business of providing aid to the hardest pressed. That's why charities have tax-free donation and deduction status and organizations like the SDSEO do not.

Make sure to spread the word about the SDSEO and encourage membership. You're likely going to go out with co-workers on lunch or after work: Maybe offer to pay for their lunch that one time (you're probably going to anyway at some point, since you're a South Dakotan) and encourage them to join the SDSEO, which likely costs less than 1 work lunch a month.

To help out with recruiting, I've attached SDSEO recruitment/info docs. (For the Investment Trust brochure, the Reinke Gray email contact is bettejo@reinkegray.com. They have changed their email address.)

Lets' add a couple dozen new members in the next couple weeks. Not kidding. Help out. Have an informal meeting with your colleagues, chat. Call me up or email me if you need help. Spread the good word.

Make sure to let me know if you experience any problems at all as a state employee. Our Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/my.SDSEO/>. Our Facebook gets lots of traffic and comments, so try to check it out. Our Twitter handle: @MySDSEO

There are two South Dakota Retirement System bills that will start in the Senate. No hearing date has been set. Descriptions of those bills are here: https://sdscsm.servicenowservices.com/sdrs?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0041584&sys_kb_id=233740cf1ba37d506a7c0e57ec4bcb30&spa=1.

There are again some prison construction bills, and I'll provide some updates on them, but they're not something we take positions on.

Best,

Eric

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SDSEO 2024 bill list

Bill	Title	Add. Info	Hearing Info
SB 17	modify the residency requirements for voter registration and declare an emergency.		Senate State Affairs
SB 20	establish the crime of threatening or intimidating an election official or election worker and declare an emergency.		Senate State Affairs on Jan. 17
SB 49	make an appropriation for the site preparation of a prison facility for offenders committed to the Department of Corrections, to transfer moneys to the incarceration construction fund, and to declare an emergency.		Joint Committee on Appropriations
SB 50	make an appropriation for the site preparation and construction of a prison facility for offenders committed to the Department of Corrections in Rapid City, to transfer moneys to the incarceration construction fund, and to declare an emergency.		Joint Committee on Appropriations
SB 52	revise the General Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2024.	Yearly revision of the prior year's General Appropriations Act to reflect actuals.	Joint Committee on Appropriations
SB 68	amend certain provisions pertaining to the South Dakota Retirement System to comply with federal law.		Senate Retirement Laws
SB 69	amend certain provisions pertaining to the South Dakota Retirement System.		Senate Retirement Laws
SB 74	establish reentry initiatives and programs in the Department of Corrections.		Senate Judiciary

Bill	Title	Add. Info	Hearing Info
HB 1001	repeal the expiration of a reduction in certain gross receipts and use tax rates.		Passed House Taxation 11-1 on Jan. 11
HB 1009	modify the observation of time in South Dakota.		House State Affairs on Jan 17
HB 1039	provide for the payment of legal expenses originating from crime committed at a facility maintained by the Department of Corrections.		House Committee on Appropriations,
HB 1040	limit annual valuation increases on owner-occupied single-family dwellings.	WITHDRAWN	
HB 1042	establish parameters for the reimbursement of school districts that provide free or reduced price meals to students.		House Education
HB 1044	update the United States census survey used to ascertain and adjust the salary of members of the Legislature.		House State Affairs on Jan 17
HB 1053	create term limits for public utilities commissioners.	Would limit to 2 terms.	House State Affairs on Jan 17
HB 1057	create the Commission on Indigent Legal Services and Office of Indigent Legal Services.	These new creations would be in the Unified Judicial System budget, which the governor does not "set."	House State Affairs on Jan 17

Bill	Title	Add. Info	Hearing Info
HB 1060	revise certain provisions related to travel reimbursement.	removes mileage reimbursement rates and lodging rates from the State Board of Finance and places those rates in statute, while leaving meal reimbursement rates to the Board of Finance. There are a couple more overall changes as well. Sections 1-4 are the meat, while the other sections are statutes that would be affected by the first section. The reality is that the Legislature desires the higher IRS mileage rate and was unable to get it passed last year. And the hotel lobby will be getting another \$30+ on rooms at state rate thru statute.	House Committee on Appropriations