



Dear SDSEO Member:

First up: We added a couple members this last week! Excellent work!

Business: Week 5 of the 2024 Legislative Session is done. The State Employee compensation and health hearing was this week. I testified for you at the hearing.

Here is the presentation:

<https://mylrc.sdlegislature.gov/api/Documents/264366.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0ppr2uTiNbyKG8xvwf9eg5OYnn4-do5zrGdEX3EcqMOhrKDwyuw-TmAdQ>.

Here are the minutes: <https://mylrc.sdlegislature.gov/api/Documents/263907.pdf>.

Here is the audio archive (the first 1:35 or so are the BHR department budget hearing, then we start at about 1:47, and my testimony is at the very end):

<https://sdpb.sd.gov/sdpbpodcast/2024/jap20.mp3>.

The dollars and bolts parts for you are increases in some deductibles and out-of-pocket costs and premiums. You can see details of them on pages 14 and 15 of the presentation. The question was asked during the presentation about 5% increases in premiums vs the 4% raise proposal; Rep. Linda Duba of Sioux Falls essentially asked the question about if that is fair to employees, especially lesser paid employees. We probably have room to work there on helping up the 4% raise and/or lessening the 5% premium increases.

For the salary policy presentation, see page 25 of the presentation for a notation on "2.9% movement in pay grades." That's not an additional 2.9% atop the 4%, but is instead a BHR policy on what they will do with all Executive Branch pay grades, move them up 2.9%. What that means is a 4% raise and also most employees will gain 1.1% in movement to market value. It's kind of confusing, I know.

About 95% of state government employees are in the Executive Branch. Some branches or sub-branches of state government build into their employee-raise models the Executive Branch proposal as the "base," and then they add on to the top of the raise Executive Branch employees get with another raise, or sometimes some of their employees don't even get the base but get less, while others get more. The Executive Branch is the governor's branch and that of the Bureau of Human Resources and the Bureau of Finance and Management. Other branches with their own HRs are the Legislative Branch and the Judicial Branch. The Board of Regents is in the Executive Branch but has its own HR, same with the South Dakota Retirement System and employees in other elected state offices. The State Investment Council also has its own raise policies. I'll talk about the different raise proposals in a later update.

The two South Dakota Retirement System bills sailed thru the House this week, collecting zero nay votes. They will be on to the governor for signing. Read on the bills here: https://sdscsm.servicenowservices.com/sdrs?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0041584&sys_kb_id=233740cf1ba37d506a7c0e57ec4bcb30&spa=1. SDRS bills are developed through the [SDRS Executive Board](#) and go thru a rigorous process. You have two state employee members to rep for you on it, and they are both SDSEO members, including the Chair of the SDRS Board. There is also a Board of Regents employee rep on the SDRS Board.

Revenue projections are this week in [Joint Committee on Appropriations](#), Tuesday and Wednesday. I'll be there. Once the Legislature knows what revenue it has, it's off to the races on funding things (or not, when revenues are poor).

REPEATS and the BILL LIST BELOW

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.)

We added a couple members the last week! 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

Sincerely,

Eric

Eric Ollila
 Executive Director
 South Dakota State Employees Organization
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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.	Passed Senate and House State Affairs. To House.	House
SB 20	establish the crime of threatening or intimidating an election official or election worker and declare an emergency.	A circuitous trail in the Senate. Passed 21-12 after failing and being reconsidered and amended.	House State Affairs
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

Bill	Title	Add. Info	Hearing Info
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.	Passed Senate and House. To Governor	
SB 69	amend certain provisions pertaining to the South Dakota Retirement System.	Passed Senate and House. To Governor	
SB 74	establish reentry initiatives and programs in the Department of Corrections.	DEAD, 41 st Day on 1/18	
SB 129	improve the workforce of South Dakota.	Vehicle Bill	
SB 137	make an appropriation for the health and wellbeing of South Dakotans.	Vehicle Bill. Hearing 2/12 7:45 a.m.	Senate Committee on Appropriations
SB 138	make an appropriation to provide for the development of South Dakota.	Vehicle Bill. Hearing 2/12 7:45 a.m.	Senate Committee on Appropriations
SB 145	modify the amount of time to report an injury for workers' compensation.	Moves from 3 days to 15 days the time to report and injury. Hearing 2/6 10 a.m. Dead 8-1 41 st day 2/06	Senate Commerce and Energy
SB 146	revise and repeal provisions related to threatening elected officers and to provide a penalty therefor.	Hearing 2/13 7:45 a.m.	Senate Judiciary
HB 1001	repeal the expiration of a reduction in certain gross receipts and use tax rates.	TABLED 7-2 in Senate Approps on 1/18	
HB 1009	modify the observation of time in South Dakota.	DEAD, 41 st Day 11-2 on 1/17	

Bill	Title	Add. Info	Hearing Info
HB 1039	provide for the payment of legal expenses originating from crime committed at a facility maintained by the Department of Corrections.	Hearing on calendar	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.	Sent to 41 st day 1/22 8-7 vote	House Education
HB 1044	update the United States census survey used to ascertain and adjust the salary of members of the Legislature.	DEAD, 41 st Day on 1/19 in House State Affairs	
HB 1053	create term limits for public utilities commissioners.	DEAD, 41 st Day on 1/17 in House State Affairs 9-4	
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." Sent to House Approps 13-0 on 1/19. Passed House 60-4 after being amended. To Senate.	Senate

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. Amended and set aside for later by House Approps on 1/18. Hearing on calendar	House Committee on Appropriations
HB 1140	improve the efficiency and administration of state government.	Vehicle Bill. Hearing 2/12 7:45 a.m.	House State Affairs
HB 1142	improve education and to provide for the workforce of South Dakota.	Vehicle Bill. Hearing 2/12 7:45 a.m.	House State Affairs

Bill	Title	Add. Info	Hearing Info
HB 1143	improve agriculture in South Dakota.	Vehicle Bill. Hearing 2/12 7:45 a.m.	House State Affairs
HB 1156	make an appropriation to enhance the economic health of South Dakota.	Vehicle Bill. Passed thru House side 53-11 2/8.	Senate
HB 1157	make an appropriation for the economic development of South Dakota.	Vehicle Bill. Passed thru House side 51-13 2/8.	Senate
HB 1172	prohibit the act of collusion during the procurement process and provide a penalty therefor.	Really tightens up procurement. Hearing 2/12 7:45 a.m.	House State Affairs
HB 1205	appropriate money for the ordinary expenses of the legislative, judicial, and executive departments of the state, the current expenses of state institutions, interest on the public debt, and for common schools.	The General Appropriations Bill for 2025	
HB 1241	modify the amount of time allowed to an employee to vote at any election in this state.	Raises the amount of hours any employee can take off work to vote from 2 to 4 hours if the employee does not have normal time off work to vote. Hearing 2/12 7:45 a.m.	House State Affairs