



2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REVIEW
South Dakota Board of Technical Education
3/31/20

The 2020 session of the South Dakota Legislature convened on Tuesday, January 14, 2020. In addition to the Governor's State of the State address, a Welcome Back Reception hosted by the technical colleges marked the first day of session. The main run of the session ended on Thursday, March 12, 2020, just as fears related to COVID-19 began to spread throughout the state.

The final day of session (Veto Day), typically designed to address potential gubernatorial vetoes, was held on Monday, March 30, 2020. While the legislature did consider multiple vetoes from Governor Noem, the body also considered 12 new pieces of legislation related to COVID-19 and its impact on the state.

A special session, intended as an opportunity to revisit the FY21 budget, is tentatively scheduled for June.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS Bills with Impact

Many pieces of legislation, with varying degrees of impact on our system, were considered during session. Those with the biggest impact are highlighted below:

HB 1083 Name Change

This bill's purpose was to rename the postsecondary technical institutes as technical colleges. After passing unanimously through the House Education Committee, the bill met some surprise opposition on the House floor. HB1083 did eventually pass both the House and Senate and was signed by Governor Noem on February 25, 2020. The name change will become official on July 1, 2020.

HB 1069 Free Veterans Tuition

HB 1069's purpose was to authorize veterans to attend courses offered at postsecondary technical institutes without payment of tuition. We worked closely with Representative Wiese and Senator Kolbeck to ensure passage. This bill is designed to cover tuition costs not covered by federal benefits.

SB 142 Dual-Credit

A number of dual-credit bills were introduced this session. The sole survivor was an amended version of SB 142, which prohibits a student who fails or withdraws from a dual-credit course to continue participating in the program. Senator Greenfield agreed to amendment allowing institutions to grant waivers to students and allow continued participation in certain instances.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS FY21 Appropriations to the System

While Governor Noem has signed the FY21 budget bill, no dollars will be released and the legislature intends to revisit the budget during a special session in June. The spread of COVID-19 will most likely lead to considerable lost revenue for the state of South Dakota. We hope to have a better sense of our FY21 appropriation by July 1, 2020. Although our budget achievements may not come to fruition, the budget approved in March did signify support for technical education in South Dakota.

- Two percent increase to the Per Student Allocation (\$3,682.53 in FY21)
- Two percent increase to Instructor Salary Support (\$3,167,865 in FY21)
- One-time funding for Equipment Priorities (\$1,500,000)
- Level funding for Maintenance and Repair (\$505,103 in FY21)