



# Policy Update

**September 5, 2025**

**Gov. Rhoden Seeks Public Input on District 16 Vacancy**

Governor Larry Rhoden recently requested public input on filling the District 16 House of Representatives vacancy, which includes the counties of Lincoln, Turner and Union.

This seat was formerly held by Representative Richard Vasgaard, who died as the result of a farm accident on Aug. 27. He served in the South Dakota State House of Representatives from 2021 to 2022, and again in 2025. Rep. Vasgaard also was a strong agriculture advocate and a long-time Farm Bureau member and leader.

Those wishing to be considered for the vacancy in the House of Representatives, or to offer nominations, should email [ryan.brunner@state.sd.us](mailto:ryan.brunner@state.sd.us). Nominations should include the candidate's name, current physical address, resume, cover letter, and letters of recommendation. All nomination materials must be submitted by Sunday, September 7, 2025.

**Wind Energy Project Proposed in Haakon County**

A wind energy project is being proposed in Haakon County, SD. The project would be situated within an approximate 68,300-acre area. The total installed capacity of the project would not exceed 333 megawatts (MW) of nameplate capacity and deliver up to 300 MW to the point of interconnection. The proposed project includes up to 87 wind turbines; a 34.5kV electrical collection and supervisory control and data acquisition system; a 230 kV collector substation; an approximately 7-mile long 230 kV generator transmission tie line; an operations and maintenance facility; up to three aircraft detection lighting system towers; access roads; and up to three meteorological towers.

The Public Utilities Commission will hold a public input meeting on the project on Thursday, October 2, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. MDT at the American Legion, 709 W. Pine St., Philip, SD 57567. This public input meeting will be held in conjunction with the public input meeting for the corresponding electric transmission line application.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the project.

**Legislature Seeks College Students for 2026 Legislative Intern Positions**

Twenty-two college and university students will get a hands-on, insider's look at the legislative process as interns when the South Dakota Legislature convenes in January for the 2026 Legislative Session. Students may be in any class year to apply, from freshman to graduate student, and all majors are eligible. Deadline to apply to the South Dakota Legislature for an intern position is October 17, 2025.

LRC's internship program immerses students in the daily operation of the Legislature and provides them with both an in-depth understanding of the legislative process and a front-row seat to discussions and decisions on the issues impacting South Dakotans. Interns work closely with legislative leadership, assist lawmakers and LRC staff during committee hearings, conduct research and monitor legislation, attend closed-door caucus meetings, and help lawmakers with constituent services and other legislative tasks. They also have the opportunity to participate in outside events related to the Legislature.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the internship.

**Contact for Questions**

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