



Policy Update

April 28th, 2023

Brown County Establishes New Setbacks for Hazardous Material Pipeline

The Brown County Commission unanimously approved a new 1,500-foot setback for hazardous material pipelines, CO2 being one of them. Last year, Brown County implemented a one-year pipeline moratorium as it studied what appropriate setback distances should be for hazardous material pipelines. A part of that discussion was 500, 1000, and 1,500-foot setbacks. The Commission also had discussion about whether the 1,500-foot setback should be measured from the property line or buildings. The Commission ultimately decided to use property line in the ordinance. Furthermore, both ethanol and representatives of the pipeline have argued that a 1,500-foot setback would make it almost impossible to Brown County ethanol plants to the main line.

New South Dakota Non-Profit Designed to Help Navigate International Trade

South Dakota has a new public-private partnership that will help navigate international trade for South Dakota. The association will be responsible for administering South Dakota's STEP Grant program, conducting export education, facilitating trade missions, and offering free and confidential consulting services to South Dakotan companies. South Dakota is also one of two states without an official international trade office. South Dakota Trade will now try to fill the gap and work with domestic and foreign companies to foster trade.

Click [here](#) to learn more about South Dakota Trade.

Governor's Office of Economic Development Commissioner Steps Down

On Wednesday, Governor Kristi Noem announced that Steve Westra, Commissioner of the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), will be stepping down from that position, effective May 22. Commissioner Westra is a former legislator and Sioux Falls businessman and has led GOED since Governor Noem was sworn into office in 2019. Travis Dovre will serve as the interim commissioner.

Indigent Legal Services Task Force to Hold Public Listening Sessions

The South Dakota Indigent Legal Services Task Force held their second meeting to develop possible improvements in providing legal services to indigent people. The task force also announced that they will hold public meetings in Hot Springs, Sturgis, Timber Lake, Chamberlain, Pierre, Huron, Aberdeen Sisseton, and Vermillion. The dates of these meetings have not been finalized; however, all meetings must be completed before June 20th, 2023.

Currently, South Dakota counties and municipalities are responsible for the of the cost for indigent legal services which adds expense to their operation. Below is the list of goals established for the task force.

1. Identify how legal services are delivered in South Dakota to indigent parties in criminal, juvenile and child abuse and neglect proceedings statewide;
2. Recommend ways to improve the delivery of legal services to indigent parties;
3. Recommend methods to provide services for conflict cases where local public defenders may be unable to take cases;
4. Address how to ensure competent representation is provided to indigent parties; and
5. Identify potential funding options to ensure delivery of legal services for indigent parties.

Contact for Questions

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