



# Policy Update

April 10, 2026

## **Veto Day and Legislative Summer Studies**

South Dakota's 101<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session concluded on Monday, March 30, 2026 with Veto Day. This day is the Legislature's opportunity to override a Governor's veto with a two-thirds vote in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. This year, the Governor vetoed two bills: HB 1077 and HB 1138. Both bills were sustained, meaning the Legislature did not override the Governor's veto.

The Executive Board of the Legislature also met on Veto Day to discuss summer studies. Summer studies are committees appointed by the Executive Board to research certain topics and typically bring legislation to the next legislative session. After discussion, the Executive Board thought it would be best to stick to the legislative summer studies created during the 2026 legislative session as well as the Governor's recidivism taskforce. These will include:

1. A taskforce to study the creation of Indian Medicaid managed care entities in the state.
2. A developmental disability service delivery committee.
3. A task force to study the provision of emergency medical services as an essential service and its funding.

Click [here](#) for more information on the Legislative Executive Board.

## **2026 Primary Election Early Voting Starts in ONE WEEK!**

Early voting for the 2026 primary election begins April 17, 2026. In South Dakota, only Republicans can vote in the Republican primary. Democrats and Independents can vote in the Democratic primary. The official primary election day is June 2, 2026. The primary will determine who will be on each party's ticket for the general election in November.

South Dakota Farm Bureau urges all eligible voters to participate in the primary election. In the 2024 primary election, unfortunately, there was only 17% statewide voter turnout. In some counties, the percentage was less than 10%!

Check the status of your voter registration at [this link](#). If you are new voter, remember to register by May 18, 2026, to vote in the primary election. Click [here](#) for more information on the 2026 primary election.

### **Bureau of Land Management launches new web tool**

The Bureau of Land Management announced the launch of a new web-based map tool designed to connect ranchers with information on vacant grazing allotments on public lands.

The web-based map allows ranchers to efficiently locate vacant allotments on public lands suitable for targeted prescribed grazing and provides easy instructions to apply for a permit. Prescribed grazing can strategically lower wildfire fuel loads, suppress invasive weeds, and promote healthier, more resilient public lands.

The BLM is coordinating with federal partners to identify more vacant areas that may be suitable for grazing, expanding the options available to producers over time. The public is encouraged to check back soon for additional opportunities. All lands identified in the new tool have been evaluated for forage, land health conditions, and suitability for sustainable grazing.

Click [here](#) to view the web-based tool.

### **Contact for Questions**

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