

SDFB Legislative Update – Week 5

We are over the halfway mark for legislative session with the first five weeks of the legislative session complete and four weeks remaining.

WE NEED YOUR HELP ON SB 157 & SB 170

Two important bills, which are South Dakota Farm Bureau priorities, will be heard in committee next week. The Senate State Affairs Committee will consider **SB 157**, the Governor's bill to clarify processes and procedures for producers looking to build livestock operations that may require a conditional use permit; and provide additional tools for counties considering these proposals. Senate State Affairs meets on Wednesday at 10 a.m. in Room 414. For more information on SB 157, please refer to the update from last week.

SB 170, the Governor's bill to make some adjustments in the methods to use capital outlay tax funds for K-12 education, will also be heard on Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Senate Taxation Committee, Room 423.

SDFB strongly supports both bills. We urge you to reach out to your legislators this weekend and next week to let them know you support SB 157 and SB 170, and ask them to do the same. You can find out who your legislators are and contact information for them [here](#). Many communities will also host legislators at cracker barrels this weekend. If you have a chance, please attend a cracker barrel and let your legislators know in person that you support SB 157 and 170.

HIGHWAY MOWING

HB 1200 is a bill designed to reduce the amount of feed destroyed by rotary mowers on the state highway system. SDFB supports this legislation.

COMMITTEE HEARING – HB 1200 will be heard in the House Transportation Committee on Tuesday, February 18 at 10 a.m.

AG LAND TAXATION

HB 1007 requires the Director of Equalization to place documentation in the record whenever the productivity assessment of a parcel of ag land is adjusted to a reduced valuation level.

COMMITTEE HEARING – HB 1007 will be heard in the Senate Taxation Committee on Wednesday, February 19 at 10 a.m.

WATER QUALITY COMPLAINTS

HB 1071, a bill to stop requiring signatures on complaints to the DENR about surface water quality, was sent to the 41st day on a 12-0 vote of House Ag Committee. SDFB had very nice attendance in the room and SDFB board member Jerry Runia did an excellent job of explaining why the bill should be defeated.

BALED FEED TRANSPORTATION

HB 1084, a bill to raise the maximum height for commercially hauling baled feed on highways from 14-foot, 3-inches to 15-foot, passed the Senate Ag Committee 7-0 and was sent to the Senate floor. SDFB filed comments in favor.

DRIVER'S LICENSING

SB 70, a bill to allow the written portion of the South Dakota driver's test to be taken in Spanish, passed the Senate 24-11 and was sent to the House. The driving portion of the test would still be required to be taken in English.

CROSSOVER DAY

There are eight days left before crossover day, the deadline when all bills must be acted on in the first chamber (either the House or the Senate). Some committees have a number of bills remaining on their schedule and will have four very busy days to meet the deadline.

SDFB DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Thank you to all who came out for SDFB's Day at the Capitol! Our grassroots membership presence was effective and impressive. We received numerous compliments from legislators and Governor Noem on SDFB's presence at the Capitol and our advocacy on behalf of South Dakota agriculture. And of course the pie we served for lunch was a hit!

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns during session.

Michael Held
SDFB Lobbyist
605-350-0739
mheld@sdfbf.org

Helpful Links:

View the SDFB bill-tracker list here:

<https://www.sdfbf.org/Policy-Advocacy/State-Legislative>

View the details on any bill by clicking this link and typing in the bill number:
http://sdlegislature.gov/Legislative_Session/Bills/Default.aspx?Session=2020

Find contact information for the Legislators here:
<http://sdlegislature.gov/Legislators/ContactLegislator.aspx?Session=2020>