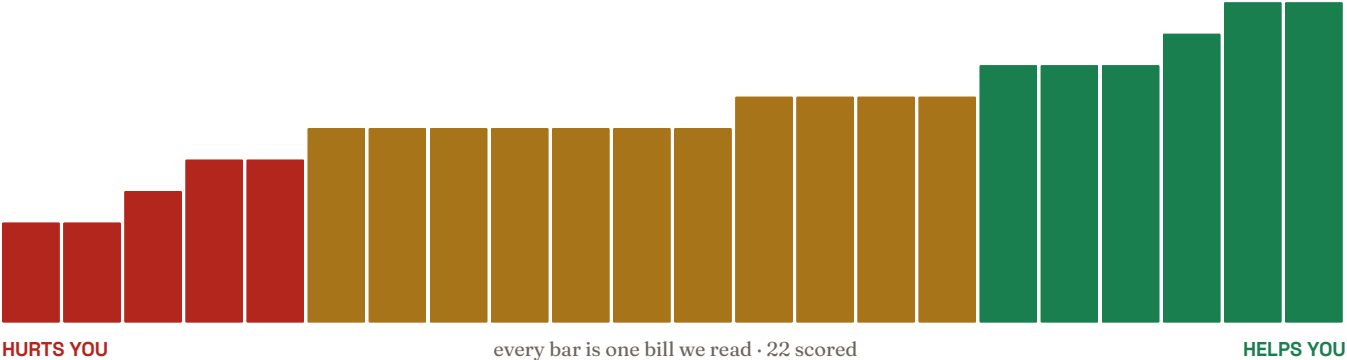




OBILLERATE • WATCHDOG

South Dakota Bill Book 2026

The South Dakota bills that matter most, each scored 1–10 on one question: does it help everyday people, or the interests behind it?



Our take on the left. The bill on the right. Room for your notes.

Every spread is one bill, twice.

On the **left** is our take: the Billometer score, what the bill means for you, and the factor-by-factor reasoning behind that score. On the **right** is the bill on the record: its official title, its status, where to read the real text, and space for your own notes.

THE BILLOMETER

One number, 1 to 10, answering a single question: does this help everyday people or hurt them? 1–4 hurts, 5–6 is mixed, 7–10 helps. It is our editorial judgement — which is exactly why every page shows the reasoning behind it. If you disagree with a score, you can see precisely where you disagree.

HOW THESE BILLS WERE CHOSEN

Ranked, not cherry-picked. This edition prints the 10 lowest-scoring and 10 highest-scoring of the 22 South Dakota bills we have fully analysed. A bill only qualifies if it passed our verification step, has a recorded official status, and has its reasoning attached. Thin entries are left out rather than padded. Note that only 143 bills in the entire country score 3 or below, so in most places the bottom of the list is not evil — it is merely mixed, and we label it that way.

THESE ARE PROPOSALS, NOT LAW

Unless a status line says otherwise. Bills move constantly; every page shows the status we recorded on 2026-09-11 and links to the live version.

Bill data from LegiScan (CC BY 4.0), Congress.gov and OpenStates. Analysis and scoring are Obillerate's own. Scores are editorial opinion, not legal advice — always read the official text before acting. Found an error? www.obillerate.com/corrections

10 worst, 10 best

THE WORST — LOWEST SCORING

- 2/10** HB1032 **The Lift Property Bill** — South Dakota bill would lift cap on property tax increases
- 2/10** HB1057 **The Grown Protein Bill** — South Dakota bans labgrown protein products
- 3/10** SB77 **The Kratom & Punish Bill** — South Dakota moves to ban kratom and punish users
- 4/10** HB1191 **The Sales Break Bill** — Sales tax break for firearms could boost gun sales
- 4/10** HB1217 **The School Districts Bill** — School districts barred from using tax money to back unions
- 5/10** HB1005 **The Data Center Bill** — Data center tax break bill moves through South Dakota house
- 5/10** HB1122 **The Guides & Penalties Bill** — South Dakota wants to license fishing guides and add penalties
- 5/10** HB1144 **The Therapy Services Bill** — New bill aims to limit AI use in therapy services
- 5/10** HB1172 **The School Districts Bill** — School districts lose extra tax levies
- 5/10** HB1181 **The Weather Modification Bill** — New bill aims to stop weather modification activities

THE BEST — HIGHEST SCORING

- 9/10** SB86 **The Worker Insurance Bill** — State can check if contractors have worker insurance
- 9/10** HB1075 **The Property Owners Bill** — Property owners get a heads-up on tax changes
- 8/10** SB233 **The Network Penalty Bill** — South Dakota moves to ban out-of-network penalty fees
- 7/10** HB1182 **The Clinics & Punish Bill** — State wants to track IVF clinics and punish noncompliance
- 7/10** SB186 **The Direct Shipment Bill** — New bill allows direct shipment of spirits to consumers
- 7/10** HB1139 **The Schools & Services Bill** — Funding for schools and state services is on the table
- 6/10** HB1236 **The Drunk Guests Bill** — New bill holds people responsible for serving drunk guests
- 6/10** SB163 **The Child Support Bill** — South Dakota Senate seeks to end child support credit
- 6/10** SB169 **The Health Care Bill** — New rules for AI in health care decisions being proposed
- 6/10** HB1246 **The Data Center Bill** — New bill aims to make data center agreements more transparent

The Lift Property Bill

South Dakota bill would lift cap on property tax increases

SD HB1032 • Housing & Property

2/10 **OBLITERATE**
Hurts everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Citizens could see bigger tax bills on their homes, while the state gains extra revenue; now is the chance to push back before it passes.

WHY IT SCORES 2/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability** (neutral) — no new oversight.
No new accountability measures are added.
- Rights & Protections** (hurts) — homeowners lose protection.
Removes cap on tax growth, reducing homeowner safeguards.
- Who Bears the Cost** (hurts) — homeowners pay more.
Tax increases shift to property owners.
- Process Transparency** (neutral) — standard process.
Bill follows normal legislative steps.

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (6R / 0D)

HOW THEY VOTED

House · 2026-01-22 — passed
Yes 8R/0D · No 5R/0D

THE BILL ITSELF

Eliminate a limit on the accumulation of the unused index factor for property taxation.

SD HB1032

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-13

WHAT IT DOES

The bill would let property taxes keep growing without a limit, making homeowners pay more over time.

WHO IT'S WRITTEN FOR

Government Power

READ IT YOURSELF

Official text (SD HB1032) — <https://sdlegislature.gov/#/Session/Bill/26816>

LegiScan — HB1032 — <https://legiscan.com/SD/bill/HB1032/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/sd-hb1032-066313

YOUR NOTES

The Grown Protein Bill

South Dakota bans labgrown protein products

SD HB1057 • Consumer Protection

2/10

OBLITERATE

Hurts everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

People could lose access to new sustainable foods while big meat companies keep their market monopoly. The ban could set a precedent for other states, so now is the time to speak up before it spreads.

WHY IT SCORES 2/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (hurts)** — restricts accountability.
removes legal pathway for producers, limiting oversight
- Rights & Protections (hurts)** — removes consumer choice.
bans a class of food products, limiting options for shoppers
- Who Bears the Cost (hurts)** — costs fall on innovators and consumers.
new producers must stop, consumers may face higher prices for alternatives
- Process Transparency (neutral)** — no extra transparency.
bill text is brief and does not add reporting requirements

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (20R / 0D)

THE BILL ITSELF

Prohibit the manufacture, sale, and distribution of any product containing cell-cultured protein, and to provide a penalty therefor.

SD HB1057 Introduced · recorded 2026-01-14

WHAT IT DOES

The bill would stop any food with labgrown protein from being made, sold, or shipped in South Dakota, limiting consumer choice.

WHO IT'S WRITTEN FOR

Big Business

READ IT YOURSELF

Official text (SD HB1057) — <https://sdlegislature.gov/#/Session/Bill/26414>

LegiScan — HB1057 — <https://legiscan.com/SD/bill/HB1057/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/sd-hb1057-072712

YOUR NOTES

The Kratom & Punish Bill

South Dakota moves to ban kratom and punish users

SD SB77 • Consumer Protection

3/10 **OBLITERATE**
Hurts everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

People who enjoy kratom would lose a legal way to get it, and they could face fines, while the state gains more control over a controversial plant.

WHY IT SCORES 3/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability** (neutral) — state can enforce ban.
gives the government power to police kratom use
- Rights & Protections** (hurts) — ban restricts personal freedom.
makes kratom illegal and adds penalties
- Who Bears the Cost** (hurts) — penalties fall on users and sellers.
people could be fined for possession or sale
- Process Transparency** (neutral) — bill text is straightforward.
no hidden clauses or complex language

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (10R / 0D)

HOW THEY VOTED

Senate • 2026-01-22 — failed
Yes 13R/0D • No 18R/2D

THE BILL ITSELF

Ban kratom and kratom products and to provide a penalty therefor.

SD SB77

 Introduced · recorded 2026-01-13

WHAT IT DOES

The bill would make kratom illegal in South Dakota and let the state fine anyone who sells or uses it.

WHO IT'S WRITTEN FOR

Government Power

READ IT YOURSELF

Official text (SD SB77) — <https://sdlegislature.gov/#/Session/Bill/26668>

LegiScan — SB77 — <https://legiscan.com/SD/bill/SB77/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/sd-sb77-069959

YOUR NOTES

The Sales Break Bill

Sales tax break for firearms could boost gun sales

SD HB1191 • Money & Damages

4/10

OBLITERATE

Hurts everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

If this bill passes, it could help gun sellers by making firearms more affordable, but it shifts tax costs to everyone else.

WHY IT SCORES 4/10 — THE RECEIPTS

Who Bears the Cost (hurts) — Shifts tax burden..

Less tax revenue means other taxpayers may pay more.

Process Transparency (neutral) — Standard legislative process..

Introduced and referred to committee.

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Bipartisan sponsorship (2R / 1D)

Provide a sales tax holiday on firearms.

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-29

This bill would let people buy guns without paying sales tax, which might make guns cheaper.

Big Business

Official text (SD HB1191) – <https://sdlegislature.gov/#/Session/Bill/27100>

LegiScan – HB1191 – <https://legiscan.com/SD/bill/HB1191/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/sd-hb1191-100427

The School Districts Bill

School districts barred from using tax money to back unions

SD HB1217 • Money & Damages

4/10

OBLITERATE

Hurts everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

This bill tries to keep your tax dollars away from union politics, but it could weaken teachers' bargaining power and limit their ability to protect classroom resources.

WHY IT SCORES 4/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — adds penalties.
schools could be fined for using funds to support unions
- Rights & Protections (hurts)** — limits union support.
prevents schools from spending money to back labor organizations
- Who Bears the Cost (helps)** — shifts cost to schools.
penalties fall on school districts, not taxpayers
- Process Transparency (neutral)** — no new transparency.
standard legislative process

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (9R / 0D)

HOW THEY VOTED

House • 2026-02-18 — failed
Yes 27R/0D • No 35R/5D

Limit the use of taxpayer funds and resources by a public education employer to support a labor organization or affiliate and to provide a penalty therefor.

WHAT IT DOES

WHO IT'S WRITTEN FOR

READ IT YOURSELF

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/sd-hb1217-101232

YOUR NOTES

The Data Center Bill

Data center tax break bill moves through South Dakota house

SD HB1005 · Money & Damages

5/10

TOLERATE

Mixed — some good, some bad



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Citizens should watch because the tax break could mean less money for schools and roads, while data center firms get a big discount and may attract more investment.

WHY IT SCORES 5/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability** (neutral) — exemption reduces oversight of tax revenue.
Skipping tax on data center purchases lowers the state's ability to track revenue from...
- Rights & Protections** (neutral) — no direct impact on personal rights.
The bill does not change any individual legal protections.
- Who Bears the Cost** (hurts) — cost shifts to all taxpayers.
Lost tax revenue must be made up by the state, likely affecting public services.
- Process Transparency** (neutral) — standard legislative process.
The bill follows normal committee referral and hearing steps.

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Pushing for it: Data center operators
Bearing the cost: Taxpayers

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (16R / 0D)

HOW THEY VOTED

House · 2026-02-04 — passed
Yes 8R/1D · No 2R/1D

Provide a sales and use tax exemption for goods and services related to data center operations.

SD HB1005

The Guides & Penalties Bill

South Dakota wants to license fishing guides and add penalties

SD HB1122 • Consumer Protection

5/10

TOLERATE

Mixed — some good, some bad



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Guides would have to pay for a license, which could raise their costs, but tourists would get more reliable, vetted services.

WHY IT SCORES 5/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — guides can be penalized for unlicensed work.
creates enforceable licensing
- Rights & Protections (hurts)** — guides lose ability to work without a license.
adds restriction on guide activities
- Who Bears the Cost (hurts)** — guides must pay licensing fees.
cost shifts to guide operators
- Process Transparency (neutral)** — no details on how licensing will be administered.
information not provided

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (2R / 0D)

HOW THEY VOTED

House · 2026-02-05 — passed
Yes 10R/0D · No 2R/1D

THE BILL ITSELF

Provide for the licensure of certain fishing guides, and to provide a penalty therefor.

SD HB1122

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-23

WHAT IT DOES

The bill would make fishing guides get a state license and could fine them if they work without it.

WHO IT'S WRITTEN FOR

Fishing guides

READ IT YOURSELF

Official text (SD HB1122) — <https://sdlegislature.gov/#/Session/Bill/26847>

LegiScan — HB1122 — <https://legiscan.com/SD/bill/HB1122/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/sd-hb1122-091639

YOUR NOTES

The Therapy Services Bill

New bill aims to limit AI use in therapy services

SD HB1144 • Healthcare & Insurance

5/10

TOLERATE

Mixed — some good, some bad



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Limiting AI in therapy might protect personal connections, but it could also reduce options for help. Now is the time to think about how this affects you.

WHY IT SCORES 5/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability** (neutral) — The bill aims to provide penalties..
The penalties may hold therapists accountable.
- Rights & Protections** (neutral) — It protects the traditional therapy method..
It ensures that human therapists are central to care.
- Who Bears the Cost** (neutral) — Costs may shift but are unclear..
Unknown how this will affect therapy costs.
- Process Transparency** (neutral) — The bill is still in early stages..
More discussion is needed for clarity.

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (1R / 0D)

THE BILL ITSELF

Restrict the use of artificial intelligence in therapy and psychotherapy services and to provide a penalty therefor.

SD HB1144 Introduced · recorded 2026-01-27

WHAT IT DOES

This bill would stop therapists from using AI tools in their work, which could affect how people get help.

WHO IT’S WRITTEN FOR

Everyday People

READ IT YOURSELF

Official text (SD HB1144) — <https://sdlegislature.gov/#/Session/Bill/26480>

LegiScan — HB1144 — <https://legiscan.com/SD/bill/HB1144/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/sd-hb1144-093753

YOUR NOTES

The School Districts Bill

School districts lose extra tax levies

SD HB1172 • Money & Damages

5/10

TOLERATE

Mixed — some good, some bad



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Citizens could see lower property taxes, but schools may have to cut programs or rely on state funds, so families could feel the impact on education.

WHY IT SCORES 5/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability** (neutral) — no new oversight.
Bill does not add oversight for school spending.
- Rights & Protections** (neutral) — neutral on rights.
Bill does not change legal rights of taxpayers or districts.
- Who Bears the Cost** (hurts) — cost shift to schools.
Eliminates local tax revenue, shifting funding burden to state or districts.
- Process Transparency** (neutral) — standard process.
Bill follows normal committee referral and amendment steps.

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (2R / 0D)

HOW THEY VOTED

House · 2026-02-05 — passed
Yes 8R/0D · No 3R/0D

Terminate certain school district excess tax levies.

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-28

School districts could not collect extra taxes, so homeowners would pay less but schools might get less money.

Everyday People

Official text (SD HB1172) – <https://sdlegislature.gov/#/Session/Bill/26397>

LegiScan – HB1172 – <https://legiscan.com/SD/bill/HB1172/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/sd-hb1172-095431

The Weather Modification Bill

New bill aims to stop weather modification activities

SD HB1181 • Consumer Protection

5/10

TOLERATE

Mixed — some good, some bad



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

While it sounds good to protect nature, this bill could limit research and solutions for climate change. It is important to think about how it might affect our future.

WHY IT SCORES 5/10 — THE RECEIPTS

Accountability (neutral) — The bill aims to hold people accountable for climate modification..
It provides penalties for violations.

Rights & Protections (neutral) — The bill protects natural weather patterns..
It aims to prevent harmful weather modification.

Who Bears the Cost (neutral) — The bill does not shift costs directly..
It focuses on prohibiting activities.

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (9R / 1D)

THE BILL ITSELF

Prohibit weather and climate modification activities and provide a penalty therefor.

SD HB1181

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-28

WHAT IT DOES

This bill would stop any activities that change the weather and punish those who try.

WHO IT'S WRITTEN FOR

Nobody / Symbolic

READ IT YOURSELF

Official text (SD HB1181) — <https://sdlegislature.gov/#/Session/Bill/26489>

LegiScan — HB1181 — <https://legiscan.com/SD/bill/HB1181/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/sd-hb1181-097658

YOUR NOTES

The Worker Insurance Bill

State can check if contractors have worker insurance

SD SB86 • Work & Wages

9/10 **LIBERATE**
Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

This bill would help make sure that workers on state projects are safe and covered if they get hurt. If companies do not have workers' insurance, injured workers might not get paid or have their doctor bills covered. This bill would give the state power to check on this, which is good for workers and keeps everyone honest. Some might say it adds more rules for businesses, but it protects people who work hard.

WHY IT SCORES 9/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — Increases oversight.
The bill would let state agencies verify and monitor workers' compensation insurance...
- Rights & Protections (helps)** — Protects workers.
Ensuring contractors have insurance protects workers' right to get help if they are hurt...
- Who Bears the Cost (helps)** — Ensures proper cost bearer.
This bill would make sure contractors, not injured workers or taxpayers, pay for worker...
- Process Transparency (neutral)** — No direct impact.
The bill does not directly change how transparent the government process is.

FOLLOW THE MONEY

- Pushing for it:** Workers, taxpayers (indirectly)
- Bearing the cost:** Contractors who might avoid insurance costs

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (2R / 0D)

HOW THEY VOTED

Senate • 2026-01-27 — passed
Yes 5R/0D • No 3R/1D

Authorize purchasing agency verification and monitoring of workers' compensation insurance coverage obtained by public improvement contractors.

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-14

This bill would let the state check if companies building public projects have insurance for their workers, so injured workers get help.

Workers

Official text (SD SB86) – <https://sdlegislature.gov/#/Session/Bill/26905>

LegiScan – SB86 – <https://legiscan.com/SD/bill/SB86/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/sd-sb86-073990

The Property Owners Bill

Property owners get a heads-up on tax changes

SD HB1075 • Housing & Property

9/10 **LIBERATE**
Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

This bill would help regular people by making sure they get a warning before a "tax increment financing district" is set up. These districts can change how your property taxes are used, often to help new building projects. Right now, you might not know about it until it's too late. This bill would give you a chance to learn and speak up about these changes before they happen. It's about giving people more say over what...

WHY IT SCORES 9/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — Increases government transparency.
Requires government to inform property owners before creating a special tax district.
- Rights & Protections (helps)** — Protects property owners' right to know.
Ensures property owners are aware of potential changes to their property's tax situation.
- Who Bears the Cost (neutral)** — No direct cost shift.
The bill focuses on notification, not on who pays for the district itself.
- Process Transparency (helps)** — Significantly boosts public awareness.
Directly adds a notification step to the process of establishing a tax increment...

FOLLOW THE MONEY

- Pushing for it:** Property owners (through increased awareness)
- Bearing the cost:** Government entities (slight administrative cost for notification)

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (4R / 0D)

Require notification of property owners prior to the establishment of a tax increment financing district.

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-15

The Network Penalty Bill

South Dakota moves to ban out-of-network penalty fees

SD SB233 • Healthcare & Insurance

8/10

LIBERATE

Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Getting sick is stressful enough without worrying about hidden fees. When you need to see a doctor who is not in your insurance network, you should just pay for the care itself. You should not have to pay extra penalty fees on top of it. This bill would protect patients and doctors from those unfair charges. It is a good step to make healthcare pricing more honest.

WHY IT SCORES 8/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — Stops unfair penalties.
The bill prevents companies from punishing people with extra fees.
- Rights & Protections (helps)** — Protects doctor choice.
Patients can see out-of-network doctors without facing extra administrative fines.
- Who Bears the Cost (helps)** — Saves money for patients.
It stops companies from passing junk fees onto patients or their doctors.

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (2R / 0D)

HOW THEY VOTED

Senate • 2026-02-18 — passed
Yes 4R/1D • No 2R/0D

THE BILL ITSELF

Prohibit the assessment of certain administrative fees or penalties related to the provision of care by an out-of-network provider.

SD SB233 Introduced · recorded 2026-02-04

WHAT IT DOES

This bill would stop health insurance companies from charging you or your doctor extra penalty fees just because you saw a doctor outside your network.

WHO IT’S WRITTEN FOR

Everyday People

READ IT YOURSELF

Official text (SD SB233) — <https://sdlegislature.gov/#/Session/Bill/27247>

LegiScan — SB233 — <https://legiscan.com/SD/bill/SB233/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/sd-sb233-107780

YOUR NOTES

The Clinics & Punish Bill

State wants to track IVF clinics and punish noncompliance

SD HB1182 • Privacy & Data

7 /10

LIBERATE

Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

People who use fertility services could get safer care because the state can see what clinics do, but the rule may add paperwork and cost for clinics, which could raise prices.

WHY IT SCORES 7/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — positive.
Penalties encourage clinics to report data.
- Rights & Protections (hurts)** — negative.
Collecting personal health data may infringe patient privacy.
- Who Bears the Cost (hurts)** — negative.
Clinics may bear compliance costs, possibly passed to patients.
- Process Transparency (helps)** — positive.
Data system makes clinic practices more visible to regulators.

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (6R / 0D)

HOW THEY VOTED

House • 2026-02-18 — failed
Yes 25R/0D • No 37R/5D

THE BILL ITSELF

Establish a data collection system pertaining to assisted reproductive technology and to provide a penalty therefor.

SD HB1182

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-29

WHAT IT DOES

The state would force IVF clinics to send data on treatments and could fine them if they don't.

WHO IT'S WRITTEN FOR

Everyday People

READ IT YOURSELF

Official text (SD HB1182) — <https://sdlegislature.gov/#/Session/Bill/26653>

LegiScan — HB1182 — <https://legiscan.com/SD/bill/HB1182/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/sd-hb1182-100223

YOUR NOTES

The Direct Shipment Bill

New bill allows direct shipment of spirits to consumers

SD SB186 • Consumer Protection

7/10

LIBERATE

Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

If this bill passes, people could enjoy more choices for buying spirits. It's a good time to support it so everyone can benefit.

WHY IT SCORES 7/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability** (neutral) — No significant accountability measures included..
The bill does not address accountability for shipping companies.
- Rights & Protections** (helps) — Enhances consumer rights to purchase spirits..
Consumers gain the right to order spirits directly.
- Who Bears the Cost** (neutral) — Costs are not shifted to consumers..
No new fees or taxes mentioned in the bill.
- Process Transparency** (neutral) — No transparency measures included..
The process for penalties is not clearly defined.

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (2R / 0D)

HOW THEY VOTED

Senate • 2026-02-12 — passed
Yes 6R/0D • No 1R/1D

Authorize the shipment of distilled spirits directly to consumers, and to provide a penalty therefor.

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-29

The Schools & Services Bill

Funding for schools and state services is on the table

SD HB1139 • Money & Damages

7/10

LIBERATE

Helps everyday people



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

If this bill passes, it could mean better schools and services for people. Now is the time to support it.

WHY IT SCORES 7/10 — THE RECEIPTS

Funding Tilt (helps) — Supports funding for essential services..
This bill appropriates money for important state functions.

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Pushing for it: state departments and common schools

Bearing the cost: Unknown

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Sponsorship unclear

Appropriate money for the ordinary expenses of the legislative, judicial, and executive departments of the state, the current expenses of state institutions, interest on the public debt, and common schools.

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-26

This bill would provide money for schools and state services, which helps everyone in the community.

Everyday People

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/sd-hb1139-093527

The Drunk Guests Bill

New bill holds people responsible for serving drunk guests

SD HB1236 • Immunity & Accountability

6/10

TOLERATE

Mixed — some good, some bad



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

If this bill passes, it could help keep people safe by making sure that those who serve alcohol to very drunk guests are held accountable. Now is the time to speak up about this.

WHY IT SCORES 6/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability (helps)** — Increases accountability for serving alcohol..
This bill makes it possible to sue those who serve alcohol irresponsibly.
- Rights & Protections (neutral)** — Neutral effect on rights..
The bill does not remove rights but adds liability.
- Who Bears the Cost (hurts)** — Costs may shift to servers..
Servers may face lawsuits and costs if they serve intoxicated guests.

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Bipartisan sponsorship (2R / 1D)

HOW THEY VOTED

House • 2026-02-20 — passed
Yes 7R/1D • No 5R/0D

Establish civil liability for furnishing alcohol to an obviously intoxicated person.

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-29

This bill would make it easier to sue people who give alcohol to very drunk people.

Everyday People

Official text (SD HB1236) – <https://sdlegislature.gov/#/Session/Bill/27225>

LegiScan – HB1236 – <https://legiscan.com/SD/bill/HB1236/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/sd-hb1236-101120

The Child Support Bill

South Dakota Senate seeks to end child support credit

SD SB163 • Money & Damages

6_{/10} **TOLERATE**
Mixed — some good, some bad



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Families who split time with their kids could see larger support bills, which may help the parent who lives with the child but could hurt the other parent who now owes more.

WHY IT SCORES 6/10 — THE RECEIPTS

- Accountability** (neutral) — no change in oversight.
The bill does not add new accountability measures.
- Rights & Protections** (hurts) — removes shared parenting credit.
Eliminates a right that lowered child support for shared parenting arrangements.
- Who Bears the Cost** (hurts) — increases payments for noncustodial parent.
Shifts more financial burden onto the parent who does not have primary custody.
- Process Transparency** (neutral) — standard legislative process.
Bill is in early stages with a committee hearing scheduled.

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (1R / 0D)

HOW THEY VOTED

Senate • 2026-02-17 — passed
Yes 5R/0D • No 2R/0D

Repeal provisions related to the shared parenting child support cross credit.

Introduced · recorded 2026-01-29

The Health Care Bill

New rules for AI in health care decisions being proposed

SD SB169 • Healthcare & Insurance

6/10

TOLERATE

Mixed — some good, some bad



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

If this bill passes, it could protect patients from unfair decisions made by machines. It's important to speak up now while it is still being discussed.

WHY IT SCORES 6/10 — THE RECEIPTS

Accountability (helps) — This bill could increase accountability for health carriers..

By setting rules for AI, it may help ensure fair treatment.

Rights & Protections (helps) — It may protect patients' rights in health care decisions..

The bill could ensure that AI does not unfairly deny care.

Process Transparency (neutral) — The bill does not specify how transparency will be improved..

More details are needed on how AI decisions will be made clear.

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Democrat-sponsored (OR / 1D)

THE BILL ITSELF

Place requirements on the use of artificial intelligence systems by health carriers in making determinations about the provision of health care services.

SD SB169 Introduced · recorded 2026-01-29

WHAT IT DOES

This bill would set rules for using AI in health care, helping ensure fair treatment for patients.

WHO IT’S WRITTEN FOR

Everyday People

READ IT YOURSELF

Official text (SD SB169) — <https://sdlegislature.gov/#/Session/Bill/26550>

LegiScan — SB169 — <https://legiscan.com/SD/bill/SB169/2026>

Live status, community verdicts and how your own reps voted — www.obillerate.com/bill/sd-sb169-101622

YOUR NOTES

The Data Center Bill

New bill aims to make data center agreements more transparent

SD HB1246 • Privacy & Data

6/10

TOLERATE

Mixed — some good, some bad



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

If this bill passes, it could help protect your privacy by making sure companies are open about their data practices. Now is the time to speak up for your rights.

WHY IT SCORES 6/10 — THE RECEIPTS

Accountability (helps) — Increases transparency.

Makes companies accountable for their agreements.

Rights & Protections (helps) — Protects consumer rights.

Helps individuals understand data usage.

Process Transparency (neutral) — Limited information on process.

More details needed on how agreements are enforced.

WHO'S BEHIND IT

Republican-sponsored (8R / 1D)

HOW THEY VOTED

House • 2026-02-20 — failed

Yes 30R/0D • No 32R/5D

Prohibit nondisclosure of certain agreements related to data centers.

SD HB1246



ABOUT THIS BOOK

South Dakota Bill Book 2026

Published by Obillerate, an independent nonpartisan watchdog that reads and scores every bill in Congress and all 50 states on a single question: does it help everyday people, or the interests behind it? Every score in this book shows its reasoning, and every page links to the official text so you can check us.

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