

# Staying Up to Date/Contacting Your Legislators

## Internet

South Dakota's legislative session has its own website, House and Senate sessions are broadcast live, and all committee hearings are broadcast via Internet.

State of South Dakota Home Page: <http://sd.gov>

Legislative Research Council: <https://sdlegislature.gov/> - Has all the legislators, full bill lists and reports, committee hearings, committee hearing minutes, email to your legislators, bill status, lobbyist, and hearing dates in committees or debate on the floor.

## Email

(Fastest way to reach them: All legislators have their own laptop computer.)

Go to: <https://sdlegislature.gov/>. Click on Legislators. Find your legislator(s). Click on email legislator.

- Make reference to the number of the bill HB or SB ### and its title.
- Ask for support or opposition to the bill.
- Provide brief and specific information to your reason.
- **Include your name, RN, phone number and email address.**

## Letters

- First sentence of the letter: Bill number HB or SB ###, title and request for support or opposition.
- Keep your supporting information brief and concise.
- Avoid the use of form letters.
- If you have printed material that may assist in making your point, mail it with the letter.
- **Always include your name, RN, address and phone number.**
- Letters and postcards may be sent to the legislator's home.
- The mailing addresses of legislators in Pierre are:

The Honorable [Representative's name]  
500 East Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501

or The Honorable [Senator's name]  
500 East Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501

## Phone Calls

- Legislators are best reached when they are home for the weekend. Do not worry about disturbing their "off" time. It's their job to listen to you and they expect calls.
- Identify yourself and the bill you are supporting and opposing.
- If you sent a letter or a postcard, ask if they received it and if there are any questions.
- Ask if you can count on their support. Do not let them hedge.
- ALWAYS thank them for listening to your opinion.
- If you are unable to call them at home, you can call them at the Capitol Building and leave a message asking them to support/oppose HB or SB ###. The Senate Lobby number is 605-773-3821 and the House Lobby number is 605-773-3851. A page will take the information and deliver the message to your legislator.

## Cracker Barrel Sessions

- Local cracker barrel sessions are an effective way to receive and provide information to your Legislators. Check your local newspapers for dates, times and locations.
- Legislators listen to their constituents.