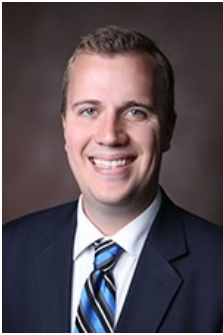

2021 Legislative Report



By Kody Kyriss, SDAPHCC Lobbyist

The main run of the 2021 Legislative Session is complete.

In the beginning of the legislative session, Governor Noem presented her State of the State Address where she addressed various topics including the importance to continue to maintain South Dakota as the number one pheasant capital in the world, the growing industry of agriculture, continuing to address mental health of individuals throughout the state, and the need to continue to improve the infrastructure throughout South Dakota. Governor Noem also discussed her administration's intent to introduce a bill to prevent a baby from being aborted solely because the baby has down syndrome.

Another goal of Governor Noem's administration, which she did not include in her State of the State Address, is to continue to "simplify" and "deregulate" licensing requirements in the State of South Dakota. As such, there was one particular bill in which your Association was heavily involved: HB 1010.

HB 1010

This bill is titled An Act to revise the renewal date and maximum renewal fee of certain licenses issued by the plumbing commission. This bill would have added a new section relating to expiration and renewal of licenses which states that any new license expires every two years on December 31st and may only be renewed on or before the immediately following January 31st and that any person licensed with the commission prior to July 1, 2021, shall be transitioned to a two-year renewal cycle and pay renewal fees on December 31, 2021. This bill would have also amended the fee for a license or renewal from three hundred to six hundred dollars.

Your association was immediately engaged with this bill. It was originally introduced as three years instead of two years. At the start of committee, the bill was amended to two years with Amendment 1010C. Members of your Association attended the House Commerce and Energy Committee hearing to testify against this bill citing concerns of the monetary strain on your members.

It passed from House Commerce and Energy Committee with an 8-5 vote. From there your Association engaged our services to further assist in lobbying against the bill. Through persistent lobbying of legislators across the House floor, the bill died on the House floor with a vote of 22 to 48.



The following additional bills were of interest to your Association:

SB 50

This bill is titled An Act to repeal the requirement for a well pump installer license. This bill would have amended existing law to repeal all statutes pertaining to a requirement for a well pump installer license.

While this bill began with a significant amount of traction in the Senate, it eventually came to a screeching halt in House Commerce and Energy where it was sent to the 41st legislative day (killed).

SB 51

This bill is titled An Act to transfer licensure of individuals who may alter, repair, construct, or install on-site wastewater systems to the Plumbing Commission. As the title suggests, this bill transfers the licensure of individuals who perform work on wastewater systems to the Plumbing Commission.

This bill passed overwhelmingly and was signed into law by Governor Noem on February 22nd, 2021.

HB 1011

This bill is titled An Act to increase certain boiler inspection fees and dedicate more of the fees to the state's boiler inspection program. This bill increases the fee for all owners, users, or insurers of qualified boilers if the boiler is inspected by a state inspector or special inspector from \$20.00 to \$30.00. This bill also increases the amount of excess funds at the end of fiscal year to be transferred to the general fund from forty thousand to one hundred thousand dollars.

This bill passed through the legislature handily. It reached the Governor's desk and was signed into law on February 22nd, 2021.
