Lawmaker+ Project
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History

• System was initially developed in 1995 – 96
  – Used PowerBuilder, C++, SQL, WordPerfect
  – Current System uses VB.NET, SQL and WordPerfect
• Very low staff turn over for about 16 years
  – Everyone was happy
• Then 2014 happened...
  – Director change, a few retirements, higher staff turnover for the next few years
Why the big change

- A lot of new staff, even a few that were hired from other state legislatures.
  - Drafter perspective on other systems
- Everyone hates WordPerfect
- Our code publisher (West) was no longer going to accept WordPerfect files.
- Technology was getting dated
- It had been 20+ years since we had done a full start to finish review of our process/system
The Approval

- Presentation to Executive Board Winter 2017
  - Legislator Portal
    - Draft Requests
    - Sponsorship
    - Bill Introduction
    - And more...
  - Paperless
  - Fully Web Based system
  - Ditch WordPerfect
Goals

- Accurate
- Efficient
- User Friendly
- Uniform
Process Review

• Created a task force with members from each department
• Started review in April 2018
• How an idea becomes a law
  – Led by one of our legal staff
• Met every week or two for a few hours
  – Went over one or two phases of the process
Document Review

• Went through each of our documents (Bills, Agendas, Minutes, etc)
• Reviewed each Element
  – Change or remove each item?
  – Anything we can add?
HOUSE BILL NO. 1001

Introduced by: Representatives Bartels, Durval, Schoenfish, and Smith (Jamie) and Senators Nesiba, Bolin, Maheer, Morne, and Youngberg at the request of the
Extraordinary Cost Fund for Special Education Study Committee

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to revise the timing of the recalculation of the allocations
2 for the disability levels in the state aid to special education formula.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:
4 Section 1. That § 13-37-35.2 be amended to read:
5 13-37-35.2. In fiscal year 2020 and every three years thereafter, the Department
6 of Education shall recalculate the amounts of the allocations for the disability levels defined in
7 § 13-37-35.1. The recalculation shall be based on statewide average expenditures as reported
8 to the Department of Education in school district annual reports by disability for the previous
9 three school fiscal years.

An Act to revise the appropriation for the construction of a National Guard Readiness
Center at the Rapid City Airport and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:
Section 1. That section 2 of chapter 198 of the 2018 Session Laws be amended to read:
Section 2. There is hereby appropriated from the general fund the sum of five hundred
thousand dollars ($500,000), four million three hundred eighty-four thousand eight
hundred eighty-five dollars ($4,384,885), or so much thereof as may be necessary, and
the sum of three million three hundred forty-five thousand three hundred forty-five dollars
($3,345,345), fifteen million dollars ($15,000,000), or so much thereof as may be
necessary, in federal fund expenditure authority to the Department of the Military for the
purposes authorized in this Act.

Section 2. Whereas, this Act is necessary for the support of the state government and its
existing public institutions, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this Act shall be in
full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.
Process Streamlining

• Reviewed each of our flow charts for possible improvements.
  – Steps that can be added, changed or removed
Demos and Decisions

• Demos with Propylon, Tallan and Excential
• Site visit to our neighbors to the north
• Chats with other states using these systems
• Discussion on vendor developed vs in-house
  – Database transformation
  – Website
  – Other Systems
We decide to go in-house

• Cost
  – Vendor system probably at least 5 million
  – Based on our estimates we can do it for 600,000
• Hire additional people for new system or transformation
• We’ve been through this process 4 times before
• Our database is solid
E-Board Approval

• We had been giving the E-Board updates throughout the year.
• 2018 Election
  – Term Limits/Turnover
  – New E-Board
• Winter 2018 we take our final plan to E-board for approval
  – Confusion and a few more members not excited about this update
  – We get approval
The Plan

• Hire one additional full-time person to run the project.
  – It will be their only focus
• Hire a consultant to help with development
• First Year deliverables
  – All documents will be converted to Word
  – Legislator Portal
• Second Year deliverables
  – LawMaker+ front end
Progress

• Word Conversion
  – Complete but likely still a few bugs

• Legislator Portal
  – 90% complete
  – Development wrapping up this week
  – Testing and debugging through October
  – Required training for legislator portal starts in November

• Some Phase 2 development has started
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