Bill Brief for HB1045 – An Act to revise the definition of campus security officers for purposes of the South Dakota Retirement System.

What does this bill do?

- This bill revises the definition of campus security officers in SDCL 3-12-47 to allow any university in the Board of Regents’ system to employ trained and sworn campus security officers. Currently, only South Dakota State University and the University of South Dakota are allowed by law to have certified law enforcement officers on staff. USD and SDSU officers are deputized by their local police departments. They are required to obtain all certification requirements consistent with the state’s law enforcement standards and training guidelines.

Why is it necessary?

- This revision would provide flexibility for each campus to determine how best to provide security for its campus community.

- If campus security officers are sworn and deputized law enforcement officers, they would qualify as Class B public safety employees in the South Dakota Retirement System.

- SDSU Police Department has 14 law enforcement officers; USD’s department employs 14 law enforcement officers and also has 3 non-certified security officers.

- Currently, campus security at the other four universities is handled in the following ways:
  
  o Northern State University has an MOU with the Aberdeen Police Department and employs a full-time campus security officer on campus for the nine-month academic year.
  
  o Black Hills State University has 3 security officers on staff, covering about 70 percent of 24/7 campus coverage. When public safety officers are not on duty, the Spearfish Police Department is available. BHSU has MOUs with the Spearfish department and Lawrence County Sheriff’s Department.
  
  o Dakota State University provides security on campus through an agreement with the Madison Police Department. The Madison department assigns an officer to serve and be present on the DSU campus during the academic year. Additional needs over the summer or on holiday breaks are provided by the Madison department, as requested by DSU.
  
  o South Dakota School of Mines & Technology employs campus security officers who are on staff 24/7 throughout the calendar year. In addition, SD Mines has an MOU in place with the Rapid City Police Department, who assigns a police officer as liaison to the campus.