Bill Brief for SB43 – An Act to redirect funding to a collaborative program in rural veterinary medical education and to provide tax revenue for the support of veterinary students.

What does this bill do?

- This bill authorizes the redirection of tax revenues that currently support veterinary education, marking those funds instead to support establishment of a collaborative program in Rural Veterinary Medical Education at South Dakota State University. It will enable students to complete the first two years of professional veterinary medical education at the Brookings campus and the remaining two years at the University of Minnesota or other accredited college of veterinary medicine.

- Senate Bill 43 would redirect funds—about $615,000 in Fiscal Year 2018—from a current agreement that buys down tuition for selected South Dakota students at Iowa State University’s veterinary school. The current arrangement benefits only six students in each entering cohort, or 24 total students, at Iowa State.

- This bill proposes a phased-in approach to invest current ongoing state revenues, eventually using these tax revenues to provide scholarships, grants, and program support for students entering the collaborative program in Rural Veterinary Medical Education on the Brookings campus. Those students currently in the program with Iowa State University will be supported through the phase out of the Iowa component, as set forth in the program.

- FY 2020 tuition differentials between resident and out-of-state tuition rates for the Iowa State veterinary school would serve as the initial base funding calculation and an escalation corresponding with the Consumer Price Index thereafter.

Why is it necessary?

- Funds to support this bill are currently directed to support six Iowa State University veterinary education slots. A larger cohort of students would be supported within South Dakota with a redirection of funds.

- The funds would be redirected to support the first two years at SDSU and the following two years for a tuition offset for these students completing the veterinary program at the University of Minnesota.

What is the source of funds for this project?

- Current revenues that support veterinary medical education in South Dakota are generated from a tax on endo- and ecto-parasiticides, which are substances used to protect large and small animals from disease-carrying insects and pests on farms and ranches.