Bill Brief for SB41 – An Act to authorize the Board of Regents to contract for the construction of a facilities building at the University of South Dakota and to make an appropriation therefor.

What does this bill do?

The bill authorizes the University of South Dakota to erect a new grounds facility on campus. It creates efficiencies, provides for a safe and proper loading dock, and is part of a broader plan for better resource utilization. A new 30,000 square-foot building will allow the university to safely and efficiently receive, track, store, and distribute supplies and materials for use throughout campus.

Why is it necessary?

- This project is part of the larger plan at USD to reduce campus square footage by 57,631 square feet, and to eliminate at least $19 million in deferred maintenance.
- The current loading dock is located at the Operations and Maintenance Shop. It was never designed for semi-trailer truck deliveries.
  - Many shipments must be unloaded in the small parking lot under various weather conditions. This interrupts maintenance projects as staff is needed to unload the truck and move the items indoors.
    - Staff then deliver these items to various small storage closets on campus. When the item is needed, staff need to again deliver from the storage closet to the building that needs the item.
    - Sometimes, the parking lot does not accommodate the truck and the driver must unload in another part of campus, rather than blocking Highway 50 through Vermillion. This leads to inefficient use of staff time to help unload and disperse these items throughout campus.
- A new building would allow USD to take advantage of bulk purchasing discounts on supplies and materials. The university currently has no capacity to buy in bulk and store until needed.
  - Examples include HVAC filters, custodial supplies, chiller chemicals, boiler chemicals, and similar items.
- A new building would provide one location for truck deliveries and the storage of inventory items.

What is the source of funds for this project?

The total budget for this project is $1.5 million. The source of funds is “other” funds from campus administration overhead.