Bill Brief for SB42 – An Act to authorize the Board of Regents to demolish three storage structures and contract for the construction of a grounds facility at the University of South Dakota and to make an appropriation therefor.

What does this bill do?

This bill authorizes the University of South Dakota to demolish three storage structures and construct a new grounds facility on campus. It provides for better efficiencies, creates safe and secure storage for expensive equipment, and is part of a broader plan for better resource utilization on campus.

Why is it necessary?

- The three buildings being taken down, which are unsafe, unsecure, and undersized, would be replaced with a new 12,000 square-foot building. This is part of the larger plan by USD to reduce campus square footage by 57,631 square feet, and eliminate at least $19 million in deferred maintenance.
- All three of the buildings to be demolished have repeatedly been identified in space utilization studies as needing significant renovations or total replacement, dating back to 1998. Most recently, in 2016, the Office of Risk Management recommended repair or removal of Physical Plant Storage 1.
- Currently, the three grounds storage facilities are unsafe, unsecure, and undersized.
  - Physical Plant Storage 1 was built in 1947 and is 2,139 square feet. It houses mowers and one pickup, as well as tables and chairs.
  - Physical Plant Storage 3 was built in 1980 and is 2,400 square feet. It houses one loader and a small amount of salt storage.
  - Biology Storage was built in 1977 and is 1,536 square feet. It houses two tractors.
- A new building would allow for all large grounds equipment and attachments, such as blades, sweepers, and buckets, to be kept indoors year-round. This reduces the need to replace parts prematurely, due to the exposure to elements resulting from outside storage.
- A new building would facilitate bulk purchasing discounts on supplies and materials. Current capacity is extremely limited due to the small size of the existing storage facilities.
  - USD estimates it could save $3,000 a year on ice melt salt, and similar savings would be realized on other grounds supplies as well.
- A new building would improve the appearance of campus and provide employees with a safe and modern facility from which to work.

What is the source of funds for this project?

- The total budget for this project is $480,000. The fund source is “other” funds generated through facilities management charges. The cost to demolish the three existing facilities is estimated to be $30,000 of the total cost provided for in Senate Bill 42.