

Bill Brief for House Bill 1024 – An Act to revise and repeal certain provisions regarding self-support tuition rates at off-campus locations governed by the Board of Regents

What does this bill do?

- House Bill 1024 removes statutory references to self-support tuition rates that are associated with delivery of public university coursework at the off-campus centers, located in Sioux Falls and Rapid City.
- It maintains authority for the setting of tuition and fee rates with the Board of Regents, as provided in SDCL 13-53-6.

Why is this necessary?

- Self-support tuition rates essentially originated as rates charged to non-traditional students not attending classes on campus.
 - This special self-support tuition rate, which includes costs of instruction and delivery for the off-campus course, was set because these courses were not supported by the Legislature through appropriations of state general funds. Hence, the term, “self-support rate.”
- During the work of the Senate Bill 55 Task Force, an in-depth review and analysis of off-campus center operations made it clear those locations could not be fully utilized when their course pricing outpaced that of the market.
- Plans for increased utilization at the Community College for Sioux Falls (CCSF) involves movement of course instruction from multiple leased facilities to the CCSF location. Those courses are currently offered at a rate less than self-support and by simply transferring the delivery location, students would be subject to a higher tuition rate.
- The Black Hills State University–Rapid City (BHSU-RC) plans include an aggressive expansion of its Associate Degree in Applied Science program to improve the pipeline of students entering the SDSU nursing program. Current self-support rates at BHSU-RC make recruitment into that program a challenge.
- Failure to obtain flexibility in pricing at the off-campus centers will handicap the Board of Regents’ ability to utilize those locations more fully, as recommended by the SB55 Task Force.

What has changed?

- During the 2021 legislative session, Senate Bill 27 was approved, which removed the self-support tuition rate requirement for courses taught at all other public university locations, except for the off-campus centers.
- Removing the statutory differentiation of a “self-support rate” at the centers in Sioux Falls and Rapid City provides the Board of Regents with the necessary flexibility to set its rates accordingly. Without passage of this bill, increased usage of the off-campus centers likely will not occur.