What does this bill do?

- This bill aligns the statutory language regarding employment of the superintendent of the School for the Deaf with the statutory language regarding employment of the superintendent of the School for the Blind and the Visually Impaired.

- This bill explicitly states that the Board of Regents may hire one person to serve as the superintendent of both schools—the School for the Deaf and School for the Blind and the Visually Impaired.

- This bill clarifies that if the Board of Regents chooses to hire a single person to serve as the superintendent of both Special Schools, that the superintendent will receive a single salary as required by SDCL § 3-8-4.

Why is it necessary?

- This bill provides the Board with the same level of discretion in hiring the superintendent of the School for the Deaf as the Board has in hiring the superintendent of the School for the Blind and the Visually Impaired.

- It is important to note that the Board of Regents, as the hiring entity, may still establish specific job-related requirements, such as American Sign Language (ASL) proficiency, in the superintendent’s job description.

- The bill codifies what has been a long-accepted practice that the Board of Regents may hire one superintendent to oversee both Special Schools, and that doing so is consistent with state law (SDCL § 3-8-4).