

Bill Brief for Senate Bill 43 – An Act to authorize the Board of Regents to contract for the design, renovation, and construction of an addition for a health sciences center at Black Hills State University—Rapid City, to make an appropriation therefor, and to declare an emergency.

What does this bill do?

- The bill authorizes construction of an addition to the Black Hills State University-Rapid City facility for a dedicated health sciences center. This addition will accommodate much-needed instruction and laboratory support for allied health courses delivered by Black Hills State University and nursing courses from South Dakota State University.
- Gov. Noem recommended spending \$8 million in federal American Rescue Plan funds on this project to consolidate all western South Dakota public university nursing programs into the BHSU-Rapid City building. This allows nursing program capacity to grow, as well as keeps all teaching, laboratory, and educational opportunities at the same location.

What is the West River Health Science Center?

- Located at BHSU-Rapid City, the WRHSC is a collaboration between Black Hills State University and South Dakota State University in nursing education. BHSU offers the pre-nursing curriculum and then seamlessly transfers the student to SDSU for the Bachelor of Nursing degree, all offered in Rapid City.
- The facility expansion will allow SDSU nursing to move from its current locations into the BHSU-RC facility. SDSU currently teaches some of the nursing curriculum at BHSU-RC, but due to facility limitations of skills labs, simulation, and faculty offices, they cannot fully move into this site.
- When fully moved and under one roof, SDSU nursing will have capacity to grow from its current 72-seat limit to as many as 120 students per semester.

Why is this necessary?

- Health care needs are growing across western South Dakota. The Board of Regents is committed to training more quality nurses for the region.
 - South Dakota is currently short about 1,600 nurses statewide.
 - High school enrollment is up, meaning there are more potential students available to enroll in health care fields. K-12 enrollment increased by 1,400 this year and is projected to grow at least through 2026.

- Work is underway to expand the current nursing education structure in Rapid City to accommodate 120 nursing students each semester, up from the current 72.
- The Board of Regents has identified new efficiencies, to accommodate program expansion, by combining nursing programs formerly operated separately in Rapid City by SDSU and the University of South Dakota.
- Healthcare organizations, business, and industry in the Rapid City and Black Hills region strongly support this needed expansion:
 - Monument Health
 - Black Hills Surgical Hospital
 - Rapid City Medical Center
 - Oyate Health
 - Black Hills Orthopedic and Spine Center
 - West Hills Village
 - Good Samaritan Society
 - Fort Meade Veterans Administration (VA)
 - Ellsworth Air Force Base

What fund sources will be used to pay for the project?

- Project cost is estimated at just over \$15 million. The project will be funded by:
 - \$8 million from the federal American Rescue Plan Act's Capital Projects Fund, as recommended by Gov. Noem,
 - \$5,114,644 from Higher Education Facilities Funds (HEFF) allocated through BHSU and SDSU, and
 - \$2 million in donated funds.