

Bill Brief for Senate Bill 44 – An Act to authorize the Board of Regents to contract for the demolition of Briscoe Hall and the existing Lincoln Hall, and the design and construction of the new Lincoln Hall, at Northern State University, to make an appropriation therefor, and to declare an emergency.

What does this bill do?

- The bill authorizes a \$29.5 million capital construction project to build a new facility to replace Lincoln Hall on the campus of Northern State University. Lincoln Hall is the current location of the NSU School of Business.
- The project is recommended by Gov. Noem and included in her proposed budget, to be funded with federal American Rescue Plan Act funds earmarked for workforce development, healthcare, and education.

Why is this necessary?

- This project was driven by regional and state workforce demands. We need to produce more graduates in both the business and nursing professions for South Dakota.
- NSU's goal is to partner with other institutions and business leaders to advance regional economic development. This also aligns well with the university's strategic priority to increase college access to more students and grow enrollments.
- A recent analysis conducted by the Board of Regents identified a critical need for South Dakota graduates in the fields of business administration, finance, and accounting.
 - NSU currently has 306 students enrolled in these fields of study and seeks to produce more.
 - More than 67 percent of degree-seeking students at NSU are South Dakota residents.
 - More than 66 percent of NSU School of Business graduates remained in South Dakota in the last five years.
- South Dakota has a projected need for 1,703 new nursing positions by 2028.
 - This project would expand delivery of South Dakota State University's accelerated nursing program, offered on the NSU campus, to 48 students, from a current class size of about 30-32 each year.
 - It will also support a 2+2 articulation program by educating NSU students on a pre-nursing track, who can then complete the last two years of the SDSU nursing degree.

What are the specific elements of this construction project?

- An estimated 62,996 square feet of obsolete space would be demolished.
 - Lincoln Hall (46,352 square feet) was first constructed as a residential hall in 1917. It was retrofitted for the School of Business in the 1990s. As originally designed, this building does not serve the needs of modern-day academic programs in either business or nursing.

- Briscoe Hall (16,644 square feet) is a residential hall constructed in 1957. It is not accessible and needs extensive remodeling.
- Costly renovations at these locations would require larger footings and structural supports, which does not create the open spaces needed for this project. Extensive ADA upgrades would also be necessary.
- New construction, totaling 47,000 square feet, creates a cost-efficient, long-lasting, and energy-efficient building. It will offer state-of-the-art space for:
 - Business classrooms and integrated informal learning spaces,
 - Nursing classrooms and simulation labs for the SDSU Accelerated Nursing Program,
 - Incubator space for the NSU Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and
 - A new location for the NSU Admissions Office.