



News Release

Contacts: Mike Rush, Executive Director and CEO
mike.rush@sdbor.edu

Janelle Toman, Director of Communications
Janelle.toman@sdbor.edu

Telephone: (605) 773-3455

Fax: (605) 773-5320

www.sdbor.edu

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Alcohol Sales Policy Set for State Universities

MADISON, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents has adopted a new policy regulating sale of beer and wine on public university campuses, but only at campuses that elect to do so, and even then, only at certain events as authorized by the board’s policy.

The board took final action today approving the policy, which comes into play once a new state law takes effect Friday (July 1). Earlier this year, state lawmakers approved Senate Bill 102 to allow alcohol sales in limited circumstances subject to regents’ policies. Under that law, periodic sales may be authorized for occasional, scheduled, or special events involving the performing arts, intercollegiate athletics, fundraising, receptions, or conferences.

“This new policy allows, but does not require, public universities to permit the sale of beer and wine at certain events in restricted spaces with controlled access,” said Mike Rush, the regents’ executive director and CEO. In the case of student athletic events, Rush said beer and wine may only be sold in specially designated box seat or loge areas and not in the general admission areas. Restrictions also are in place for any sales at pre-game events, such as tailgating venues.

An institution that decides to allow sale of beer and wine at certain events must develop its own policy providing for an institutional permit process, Rush said. That process could apply more restrictive terms and conditions before a permit is issued. The new policy also requires each university to submit an annual report to the Board of Regents describing what events were permitted on campus.