

# State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-SEVENTH SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2012

726T0494

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1072

Introduced by: Representatives Verchio, Brunner, Elliott, Hubbel, Olson (Betty), Russell,  
and Tulson and Senators Rampelberg, Maher, and Rhoden

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to provide for the recall of county commissioners.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

3 Section 1. That chapter 7-8 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as  
4 follows:

5 Any county commissioner may be recalled from office at any time by the registered voters  
6 of the county as provided by this Act.

7 Section 2. That chapter 7-8 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as  
8 follows:

9 A petition signed by at least fifteen percent of the registered voters of the county, based upon  
10 the total number of registered voters at the last preceding general election, demanding the  
11 removal from office of a county commissioner shall be filed with the county auditor. The  
12 allowable grounds for removal are: misconduct, malfeasance, nonfeasance, crimes in office,  
13 drunkenness, gross incompetency, corruption, theft, oppression, or gross partiality. The petition  
14 shall contain a specific statement of the grounds on which removal is sought. The form for the  
15 county commissioner recall petition shall be prescribed by the State Board of Elections pursuant



1 to chapter 1-26. No signature on a petition is valid if signed more than sixty days before the  
2 filing of the petitions.

3 Section 3. That chapter 7-8 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as  
4 follows:

5 The county commission shall, upon the presentation of a petition pursuant to section 2 of  
6 this Act, within ten days, order and fix a date for holding a special election, to be on a Tuesday  
7 not less than thirty nor more than fifty days from the date of the order of the county commission.  
8 If a petition is filed within three months before the general election and within sufficient time  
9 to comply with the provisions of § 7-18A-20, the question of removal of the county  
10 commissioner shall be submitted at the primary, general, or statewide special election.

11 Section 4. That chapter 7-8 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as  
12 follows:

13 The official ballot shall allow the voters of the county to choose whether the county  
14 commissioner sought to be removed from office is to be removed from or retained in office.

15 Section 5. That chapter 7-8 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as  
16 follows:

17 If the voters choose to retain the incumbent in office, the incumbent shall continue in office  
18 and is not required to qualify again.

19 Section 6. That chapter 7-8 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as  
20 follows:

21 If the voters choose to remove the incumbent from office, the incumbent is deemed removed  
22 from office, and a vacancy in office is deemed to exist. The vacancy shall be filled as provided  
23 in chapter 3-4, except that the incumbent who was removed may not be appointed to fill the  
24 vacancy.