



2023 South Dakota Legislature

House Concurrent Resolution 6009

Introduced by: **Representative Sue Peterson**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Encouraging the Executive Board of the Legislature**
2 **to establish a taskforce to address the standardization of outdoor emergency**
3 **warning system activation policies.**

4 WHEREAS, outdoor emergency warning systems are currently used for many purposes
5 across South Dakota; and

6 WHEREAS, the original purpose of the outdoor emergency warning system was to alert
7 the public of potential military attacks during the Cold War; and

8 WHEREAS, operational responsibility for outdoor emergency warning systems varies
9 between county and city emergency management personnel, fire departments, and law
10 enforcement agencies; and

11 WHEREAS, using disparate activation criteria causes confusion and misunderstanding
12 among the public, ultimately leading to public mistrust of emergency warning systems; and

13 WHEREAS, failure to recognize outdoor emergency sirens as a warning tool leads to
14 vulnerability of citizens in emergency situations;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-
16 Eighth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the
17 Executive Board of the Legislature establish a taskforce to study the standardization of
18 outdoor emergency warning system activation policies; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the taskforce develop statewide best practice options for
20 the activation of outdoor emergency warning systems with clear and uniform policies to
21 enhance awareness, eliminate confusion, and protect lives; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the taskforce would consist of two members of the House
2 of Representatives, two members from the Senate, the director of public safety from the state
3 Office of Emergency Management, a representative from the National Weather Service, a
4 representative from the South Dakota Municipal League, representatives of the South Dakota
5 Emergency Management Association leadership and regional vice presidents, the emergency
6 managers from Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and Aberdeen, three emergency managers from
7 communities with a population between five thousand and twenty-five thousand, and three
8 emergency managers from communities with a population under five thousand.