

## S. Dakota Lawmakers Approve Penny Bets

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota Legislature has given final approval to a measure that would allow 1-cent bets in video lottery games.

The House voted 39-28 Thursday to approve the measure, which was passed earlier by the Senate. The bill, which was proposed by the state Lottery Commission, now goes to Gov. Dennis Daugaard for his signature.

The law currently allows a minimum bet of five cents. The measure would allow players to bet as little as one cent.

Supporters say penny bets are needed for new machines that offer line-up games similar to slot machines. They say the bill is part of an effort to make the games fresh and entertaining.

But opponents say it's an expansion of gambling that could cause people to lose more money.

## NWS Plans Upgrades For Nebraska

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. (AP) — Upgrades scheduled for three National Weather Service (NWS) offices in Nebraska will help meteorologists spot tornadoes at night, among other improvements.

Teresa Keck, a warning coordination meteorologist, told *The North Platte Telegraph* the upgrades were part of the weather service's goal to build a "Weather-Ready Nation" and better protect people from dangerous storms. The Johnston and Davenport offices in Iowa received their upgrades last year.

New dual-polarization technology helps meteorologists gauge rainfall totals and determine precipitation types, like the difference between rain and hail.

And, Keck said, the new technology will make it easier to see tornadoes after dark.

"It will provide new enhancements for looking at tornado debris," she said. "If a tornado hits something big, that flying debris will become some of the sampling that the radar picks up on. It doesn't rule out the fact that we need storm spotters, but this is another tool we can use."

The new radar can emit and receive radio waves vertically, which lets meteorologists better estimate the size, shape and variety of items. It can provide more accurate information about precipitation forms and rates and help meteorologists identify smoke plumes from wildfires and other materials that usually can't be detected by horizontal wave radars.

The current weather service Doppler radar systems only transmit and receive radio waves horizontally, which experts say limits their ability to measure precipitation droplets and other items.

# S.D. House Panel Votes To Extend Weapons Permits

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press

PIERRE — A South Dakota House panel advanced a proposal Thursday that would add a year to the state's concealed weapons permit, but the sponsor of the plan acknowledged other gun-law changes he's seeking won't be approved this year.

The Local Government Committee voted unanimously to increase the permits from four years to five years, sending it on to the full House. The Senate approved the bill earlier.

The measure's main sponsor, Sen. Larry Rhoden, R-Union Center, said he had hoped to use the bill to make other changes in South Dakota's gun laws, but those additional changes cannot be made this year because additional study is needed.

Rhoden said he eventually wants to change the law so that once people get concealed

weapons permits they would not have to undergo separate background checks every time they buy a gun. That would require issuing concealed weapons permits based on the same database used to approve gun sales.

The National Instant Criminal Background Check system is used when someone buys a gun, but South Dakota's county sheriffs use a different database when checking whether someone is qualified to get a concealed weapons permit, Rhoden said. Some other states use the National Instant Criminal Background Check system to issue concealed weapons permits, which means no separate check is needed when permit holders buy guns, he said.

Rhoden said he also wants to make it possible for South Dakota mental health facilities to report the names of people with mental problems to the national system used to determine who can buy guns. Other states provide mental health information to that system, he said.

Rhoden said he is working with the governor's office, the attorney general's office and the secretary of state so those changes can be proposed to the Legislature next year.

"It became apparent that we shouldn't rush into this," Rhoden said.

Matt Konenkamp, an aide to Gov. Dennis Daugaard, testified in favor of making concealed weapons permits valid for five years, which prompted Rep. Stacey Nelson, R-Fulton, to ask why the governor's office supported that bill after opposing three other gun-related measures earlier in the legislative session.

Nelson said one of those bills would have directed state agencies not to enforce any presidential executive orders that would ban firearms or require registration of guns.

Konenkamp said the governor's office judges each bill on its specific details. He said at least one of the bills opposed by the governor's office earlier had constitutional problems.

## Nebraska Committee Advances Juvenile Lifers Bill

BY GRANT SCHULTE  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Convicted murderers in Nebraska who committed their crime as minors would serve a minimum sentence of 30 years to life, under a new bill that advanced Thursday out of a legislative committee.

The Judiciary Committee voted 6-0 to approve the measure for debate in the full Legislature.

Sen. Brad Ashford of Omaha introduced the bill in the wake of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling, *Miller v. Alabama*, which prohibited life-without-parole sentences

for crimes committed by anyone younger than 18 years old.

Ashford said Thursday that the bill won't apply retroactively to the 27 Nebraska inmates who were sentenced to life without parole for crimes committed as minors. He previously said he's not opposed to applying the bill retroactively in those cases, but other states have also opted not to do so and he said the issue will likely be resolved in the courts.

Lawmakers are trying to find a new minimum that balances the need for justice with the recognition that adolescent brains haven't fully developed. Research

has shown that adolescents are more impulsive and less likely to grasp the severity of their actions. Bill supporters say the life without parole sentences also fail to consider mental health problems, or childhoods filled with violence, neglect and parental drug use.

Ashford initially floated a 20-year minimum, which would have allowed offenders to qualify for parole within as little as 10 years. Juvenile advocates supported the measure as written, but the Nebraska County Attorneys Association, which represents prosecutors, urged lawmakers to approve a 60-year minimum.

Nebraska defense attorneys countered that a 60-year prison term didn't allow for a "meaningful opportunity" to review the juvenile's sentence, as the U.S. Supreme Court ruling requires.

Public defenders have also cautioned that too long of a sentence would trigger additional court challenges. Iowa is in such a situation right now, after Republican Gov. Terry Branstad commuted the life-without-parole sentence of 38 convicted killers. Branstad's order made the inmates eligible for parole after they had served at least 60 years in prison.



# Congratulations on a Great Season Yankton Miracle Hockey Teams!



### Yankton Miracle MiniMites

Sitting: Easton Vellek, Wyatt Johnson, Jack Pedersen, Harrison Krajewski, Hunter Eggen, Kobe Koletzky, Connor Perakslis, Tucker Renken, Hudson Burgeson, Sabrina Krajewski, Nora Krajewski, Madeline Abbott & Tate Benson; Standing: Mac Humpal, Caleb Cross, Aiden Anderson, Ashton Renken, Hunter Walters, Reagan Wenisch, Joseph Schmidt, Keenan Wagner, Emma Eichacker & Kaylee Nelson; Coaches: Rhonda Schenkel, Austin Reining, Shawn Wagner, Terrence Pedersen, Colby Benson & Michael Burgeson



### Yankton Miracle Mites

Front: Quentin Franklin; Sitting: Miles Krajewski, Michael Parish, Brady Blom, Hudson Walters, Alexander Nockels, Alex Reichert, Mikayla Humpal, Tucker Gilmore, Cole Pedersen, Boone Prather, Mason Roesler & Curtis Nelsen; Standing: Riley Humpal, Blair Pokorny, Braylen Bietz, Alex Hacecky, Tanner Noble, Luke Abbott, Abby Weber, TJ Weber, Lainie Keller, Connor Larson & Dawson Vellek; Coaches: Jason Bietz, Brian Wenisch, Dave Abbott & Darrell Schenkel

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### Yankton Miracle PeeWee A

Kneeling: Sean Garcia; Sitting: Jack Schoenfelder, Dillon Barger, Trey Bakke & Caid Koletzky; Standing: Jaxson Erickson, Oakley Palmer, Nick Lehl & Caleb List; Back Row Coaches: Ryan Mueller, Seth Erdmann, Chad Kapla, Bruce Dutrow, Josh Engquist & Dusty Koletzky; Not Pictured: Isaac Klimisch



### Yankton Miracle PeeWee B

Kneeling: Isaac Nedved; Sitting: Reid Dutrow, Tom Stewart, Zach Rohde & Cole Withrow; Standing: Grant Nelson, Kyle Withrow, Coach Chad Kapla, James Bouska & Jace Kapla; Back Row Coaches: Ryan Mueller, Bruce Dutrow, Seth Erdmann, Josh Engquist & Dusty Koletzky; Not Pictured: Gabriel Plath

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