

Court Records Fee Increase Approved In S.D.

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota Legislature has given final approval to a measure that would increase search fees charged to people who want to see circuit court records.

The bill would raise the current \$15 fee to \$20 beginning Jan. 1, 2013, but the fee would return to \$15 in July 2017. The increase was requested by the court system to offset last year's budget cuts and to support an upgrade of the court's computerized case management system.

The fee covers searches for statewide criminal and civil records. It also applies for searches to check individual court case files.

The House voted 58-11 Wednesday to approve a version of the bill approved earlier by the Senate. The measure will become law if signed by Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

Outdoor Advertising Bill Passes S. D. Senate

PIERRE (AP) — The debate on whether local governments can limit the amount of outdoor advertising continues in the South Dakota Legislature.

The Senate passed an amended version of a bill that clarifies local authorities can't prohibit outdoor billboards, including digital advertising.

Jurisdictions could decide the intensity of the lights and the dimensions of the signs or electronic panels.

Several Rapid City lawmakers oppose the bill. They say the city is over-run by signs that clash with the Black Hills landscape and say the tourism-friendly city should have a right to limit sign numbers.

Last June, Rapid City residents passed a referendum blocking more signs, which is going through court litigation.

Senators voted 24-9 on Wednesday.

Because representatives haven't voted yet on the most recent amendment, the bill will return to the House.

Corps Meets Deadline In Levee Repairs

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says it has met its deadline on the most critical levee repairs on the Missouri River from Omaha and Council Bluffs to just below the Missouri border at Rockport and the levees are ready to handle high water again.

The corps says five breaches have been closed and several damaged segments have been repaired from last summer's historic flooding.

The corps' Bret Budd says work on the last of the five breaches, near Percival and Hamburg in Iowa, was completed Tuesday.

The work, which has been ongoing since January, was urgent before the 2012 runoff season begins — even with the mild winter. March 1 is the typical start of the runoff season, when the first significant water from melting snowpack enters the river.

Unemployed? S.D. Has A Job For You

BY KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Unemployed? Or thinking about switching careers but fearful of the current job market? South Dakota wants you.

With unemployment in the state about half the national average and businesses expanding on a regular basis, the state finds itself in a unique position: too many jobs and not enough people to fill them.

So South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard is poised to sign into law a unique plan to remedy the situation by authorizing the state hire a recruitment agency to bring in 1,000 out-of-state workers to fill in-demand jobs for companies like Sioux Falls-based Raven Industries.

Business has been booming at the technology firm, which employs nearly 1,000 people in the state. The company hopes to grow its engineering divisions but worries about finding enough qualified engineers in the state.

"It's going to be a challenge to fill the demand," said Jan Matthiesen, director of administration at Raven. "Of course we pull from our local universities. We have excellent universities here and a lot of good talent there, but those students are also very much recruited to other places as well."

Daugaard hopes a recruitment agency can remedy that situation, attracting new workers to the state and convincing South Dakota residents who left to return.

The agency, ManpowerGroup, has already been selected, and the Legislature recently gave final approval to a bill that appropriates money for the firm. Daugaard must still sign the bill into law. Manpower will start recruiting workers to the state April 1, said Robert Meyer, the agency's branch manager in Sioux Falls.

"This is extremely unique. I don't think it's ever been done," Meyer said. "It's almost opposite

what's going on in the rest of the United States. They have the people but not the jobs. We have the jobs but not the people."

The agency will focus on recruiting a wide variety of workers in manufacturing, engineering and informational technology — from unskilled workers at the production level to highly skilled welders and machinists and professionals. Jobs offered through the program must first be made available to South Dakota residents for at least 30 days.

Manpower will receive \$3,000 for each worker it places with a base salary less than \$40,000. It will get \$5,100 for each employee it places with a base salary of \$40,000 to \$80,000.

South Dakota will split the placement costs with the companies employing the workers.

Daugaard's office estimates the 1,000 new workers will help the state's economy grow by more than \$120 million and increase the state tax revenue by \$3.1 million each year.

"With unemployment so high and so many wanting to get back to work, the governor felt there was a job and a way of life here for them," said Dusty Johnson, Daugaard's chief of staff.

The governor feels the private sector is better equipped to recruit out-of-state workers because of its larger presence across the country, Johnson said.

The recruitment effort is part of a broader program called South Dakota Workforce Initiatives, or South Dakota WINS. The goal of the 20-point plan, introduced at Daugaard's State of the State speech in January, is to better educate and train students for jobs, promote rural health occupations and attract new workers to the state.

The initiative will build upon a program started in 2006 to recruit people from South Dakota to return to their home state by matching them with job opportunities. More than 2,000 families have returned to the state as a result.

Yankton-based Applied Engineering Inc. has its own strategy for seeking workers who don't live in South Dakota, traveling to technical colleges in other states to recruit. The company, which manufactures aluminum components primarily for the aerospace industry, offers several incentives to attract new employees, including signing bonuses and covering the cost of relocating.

Yet there still are not enough workers to fill the demand of the company, which has expanded three times in the last seven years.

Part of the problem is that interest in manufacturing has declined, said Rick Duimstra, finance and human resources director at Applied Engineering.

"I think a lot of burden goes back on manufacturers," he said. "What did we do during the last 20 years to promote manufacturing careers? Probably not much. As such, kids have migrated elsewhere."

State officials hope Manpower can change that.

The agency expects to have five to seven members of its team focused on filling vacant jobs in South Dakota, Meyer said.

As it receives orders from the state for particular companies, Manpower will post the jobs to its national account system. This will broadcast the openings to 700 different Manpower branches with more than 1,000 recruiters nationwide who will talk to job seekers about the benefits of moving to South Dakota.

For potential employees who don't know much about South Dakota, Meyer said Manpower will stress the state's low crime rate, short commutes, low state sales tax and abundant opportunities for hunting and fishing.

"I love it," said the Manpower branch manager, who has lived in the state his whole life except for a stint in the military. "Seriously, I've traveled to over 20 countries and I just couldn't wait to get back to South Dakota."

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Snow Date: March 11

Menu: Chicken Noodle, Beef Vegetable, Potato Dumpling, Chili, Taverns, Hotdogs, Pies & Desserts

Grand Raffle • Silent Auction • Bake Sale • Kids Games • Bingo

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SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD

\$2,000 In Total Cash Drawings

\$200 Drawn Every 30 Minutes 7:30-Midnight

WEDNESDAY'S IN MARCH

March Madness Match Play (7th, 14th, 21st, 28th)

Buy \$10 in Credits Get \$5 in Free Play—First 25 Customers at 1 & 7PM

Ohiya BINGO

Friday, March 2nd

Regular Session \$16 Pays \$50, \$7 X-tra Packet

Saturday, March 3rd Special

\$30 Pays \$150, \$10 X-tra Packet, Warm-Ups 6PM, Reg. Session 6:30pm

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Saturday, March 3rd

Pancake Buffet \$5.50
Dinner \$13.95 T-Bone

Sunday, March 4th

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Friday

Shrimp & Fries
Serving 5:30-8:00

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