



2021 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Concurrent Resolution 608

Introduced by: **Senator Frye-Mueller**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, To raise public awareness and support the National**
 2 **Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems.**

3 WHEREAS, the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems
 4 (NAPHSIS) is a national nonprofit organization representing the state vital records and public
 5 health statistics offices in the United States. Formed in 1933, NAPHSIS brings together more
 6 than two hundred fifty public health professionals from each state, the five territories, New
 7 York City, and the District of Columbia; and

8 WHEREAS, NAPHSIS has three programs—EVVE (Electronic Verification of Vital Events),
 9 FOD (Fact of Death), and STEVE (States and Territorial Exchange of Vital Events)—that can
 10 verify birth certificates, ensure driver's licenses and U.S. passports are not issued in any
 11 deceased person's name, and substantiate, without forfeiting the constitutional rights of
 12 citizens, that a person is who they say they are and is a U.S. citizen; and

13 WHEREAS, NAPHSIS needs \$50 million in funding to work with states and territories so
 14 birth and death certificates can be digitized going back as far as seventy years, and the
 15 necessary robust software can be developed and utilized; and

16 WHEREAS, the 9/11 Commission stated two important points that must be addressed—
 17 making sure a person is who they say they are and knowing who is a U.S. citizen before
 18 issuing a driver's license; and

19 WHEREAS, it has been over fifteen years and between \$15 and \$20 billion has been spent
 20 between states, territories, and the federal government on the implementation of the REAL
 21 ID Act of 2005, which requires states and territories to verify birth certificates, but this
 22 verification is still not being done; and

1 WHEREAS, EVVE does not require a centralized database of birth certificates, nor does it
2 require the actual birth certificates to be shared or transmitted between states, territories, or
3 the federal government; and

4 WHEREAS, there is a lack of confidence by many U.S. citizens concerning the election
5 process because just as the Motor Vehicle Division cannot say they know who a person is, or
6 if in fact the person is a U.S. citizen, the same is true of state election officials because birth
7 certificates are not verified, and FOD and STEVE are not fully utilized:

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Ninety-Sixth Legislature of the
9 State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, urging the South
10 Dakota congressional delegation to sponsor legislation to provide NAPHSIS \$50 million in
11 funding for the digitization of birth and death certificates and development of the necessary
12 software; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the speaker of the House of Representatives and the
14 president pro tempore shall issue a joint media release describing this resolution to the public
15 in South Dakota once the resolution has passed in the Legislature.