



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

A weekly review of government issues & activities important to the home building industry

Monday, February 20, 2012

\$3.8 Trillion Budget Proposed by Obama

President Obama on Feb. 13 unveiled a \$3.8 trillion fiscal 2013 budget that seeks to create jobs in the near term through additional stimulus spending and reduce the deficit over the long-term in part by eliminating the Bush-era tax cuts for families earning more than \$250,000 per year. As with every presidential budget, this is merely a proposal that sets a marker for the greater appropriations/budget battles that will happen in Congress this year. Given the size, cost, complexities and major policy overhauls that this blueprint entails, the budget battle in the weeks and months ahead is likely to be contentious as lawmakers on both sides of the aisle debate its merits on an array of fronts – from taxes, to energy policy to social spending. It's important to note that no White House budget is ever approved "as is" by the Congress. NAHB will remain deeply engaged as the budget process moves forward, fighting to strip out any provisions that will harm housing and promoting elements that will help small businesses and the housing sector.

Home Building Improvement Act of 2012 Introduced

Sen. Robert Menendez on Feb. 7 introduced the Home Building Lending Improvement Act of 2012 (S. 2078), legislation to help restore the flow of credit for new housing production in order to create jobs, meet rising housing demand and bolster the economic expansion. To build momentum for the newly unveiled legislation, NAHB launched a letter-writing campaign at the International Builders' Show encouraging our members to ask their senators to cosponsor S. 2078 and their representatives to sign on to H.R. 1755, companion legislation in the House introduced last spring by Reps. Gary Miller (R-Calif.) and Brad Miller (D-N.C.) that currently has 87 cosponsors including Rep. Kristi Noem. NAHB members attending the IBS sent more than 1,700 letters to 303 lawmakers seeking their support for the two bills. Members can access information about the AD&C and appraisal issues online at www.nahb.org/adc.

Developer Pond Legislation Advances to Governor

HB 1172, a bill supported by HBASE/SDHBA to exempt certain developer-installed storm sewer detention ponds from public procurement bid requirements has cleared the South Dakota Senate (32-0) and House (66-3). The bill advances to Gov. Dennis Daugaard for final consideration. In a collaborative effort, HBASE developers worked last year with officials from the City of Sioux Falls Public Works Department and City Attorney's Office to find a solution to the issue. The agreed solution was to draft legislation to clarify an existing state statute relating to public procurement bid requirements. The bill received the full support of the South Dakota Municipal League who secured the bill's primary sponsors and provided testimony at committee hearings. To view this legislation or, go to the following link: <http://legis.state.sd.us/sessions/2012/Bill.aspx?Bill=1172>

South Dakota Legislative Session

The HBASE Legislative Committee continues to meet weekly to review and discuss bills being considered by the legislature. A bill tracking list of state legislative issues can be found by logging onto the government affairs section of www.hbasiouxempire.com. To review legislative bills and listen to committee hearings and proceedings in the House and Senate, visit the South Dakota Legislative Research Council's Website at: <http://legis.state.sd.us/sessions/2012/index.aspx>.

IN THE WEEK AHEAD

Minnehaha County Commission Meeting

The Minnehaha County Commission will meet on Tuesday, February 21 at 9:00 a.m. at the Minnehaha County Administration Building, 415 North Dakota Avenue. The following items will be discussed:

- Presentation by Minnehaha County Auditor on Current State of Minnehaha County Finances for 2012
- Consider Appeal of Final Department of Labor Ruling in the Minnehaha County Deputies Association Wage Grievance (Deferred from February 7, 2012)
- Update and Status Report of the 87th Legislative Session on Bills that Impact Minnehaha County

Sioux Falls City Council Informational Meeting

The Sioux Falls City Council will meet on Tuesday, February 21 at 4:00 p.m. at Carnegie Town Hall, 235 W. 10th St. The following item will be discussed:

- 2011 Year-end Financial Results

Sioux Falls City Council Meeting

The Sioux Falls City Council will meet on Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00 p.m. at Carnegie Town Hall, 235 W. 10th St. The following items will be discussed:

- 2nd Reading – An Ordinance of the City of Sioux Falls Providing Supplemental Appropriations. (Washington Pavilion, \$30,000)
- 2nd Reading – An Ordinance of the City of Sioux Falls Amending the Revised Ordinances of the City by Creating an Operations Committee of the City Council.
- A Resolution Amending the 2012-2016 Capital Program to Add a New Project, South Dakota Black History Museum Exhibit, in 2012.

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For additional information on any of the items listed above, please contact the HBASE's Government Affairs Director, Todd Anawski at 361-8322 or todd@hbasiouxempire.com.