

powers of the first branch

powers of the first branch refer to the constitutional authorities and responsibilities vested in the legislative branch of government, often recognized as the first branch in the separation of powers framework. This branch, typically embodied by a parliament or congress, holds critical powers that enable it to create laws, oversee the executive, and represent the electorate. Understanding the powers of the first branch is essential for comprehending how democratic governance functions, how checks and balances operate, and how laws are enacted and implemented. This article explores the various powers of the first branch, including legislative authority, budgetary control, oversight functions, and the power to amend constitutions. Additionally, the discussion will highlight the historical context and theoretical foundations of these powers, as well as their practical applications in modern government systems. The following sections outline the comprehensive aspects of the powers of the first branch.

- Overview of the First Branch
- Legislative Powers
- Budgetary and Financial Powers
- Oversight and Investigative Powers
- Constitutional Amendment Powers
- Additional Powers and Functions

Overview of the First Branch

The first branch of government is traditionally the legislative branch, established by constitutions to serve as the primary law-making body. It is the foundation of representative democracy, where elected officials act on behalf of citizens to draft, debate, and enact laws. The powers of the first branch are designed to ensure that legislation reflects the will of the people and provides a check on the powers of the executive and judiciary. This branch varies in structure across different countries, often existing as a bicameral or unicameral legislature. Despite structural differences, the core functions and powers remain consistent, embodying the principle of separation of powers and facilitating governmental accountability and transparency.

Historical Context

The powers of the first branch have evolved from early parliamentary systems, where monarchs held absolute power and legislatures had limited roles. Over time, democratic movements expanded the authority of legislatures, establishing them as co-equal branches of government. The U.S. Constitution, for example, explicitly enumerates the powers of Congress, reflecting the framers' intent to empower the first branch while preventing tyranny. Globally, the development of legislative powers has followed similar trajectories,

reinforcing the importance of legislative authority in democratic governance.

Theoretical Foundations

The theoretical basis for the powers of the first branch lies in the doctrine of separation of powers, articulated by political philosophers such as Montesquieu. This doctrine divides governmental authority among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches to prevent the concentration of power and protect individual liberties. The legislative branch is entrusted with the power to create laws, representing the people's interests and ensuring that government actions are legally grounded. This theoretical grounding justifies the extensive powers and responsibilities assigned to the first branch in modern constitutional systems.

Legislative Powers

Legislative powers are the most fundamental aspect of the powers of the first branch. They encompass the authority to propose, debate, amend, and enact laws that govern society. This power includes both general legislation and specific laws addressing social, economic, and political issues. The legislative process involves multiple stages, including committee review, plenary debates, and voting, ensuring thorough scrutiny and democratic input. The scope of legislative powers also extends to regulating commerce, national defense, civil rights, and public welfare.

Law-Making Authority

The law-making authority enables the first branch to establish binding rules and regulations applicable nationwide. This authority is exercised through the drafting of bills, which undergo rigorous debate and modification before becoming law. The legislative body also holds the power to repeal or amend existing laws, maintaining legal relevance and adaptability. Law-making involves balancing competing interests and priorities, requiring careful consideration of social impact and constitutional limits.

Delegated Legislation

In addition to primary legislation, the first branch possesses the power to delegate legislative authority to subordinate bodies or executive agencies. This delegated legislation allows for detailed rule-making within the framework set by the legislature, facilitating efficient governance and specialization. However, the legislature retains oversight and can revoke delegated powers if necessary, preserving ultimate control over the legal framework.

Budgetary and Financial Powers

The powers of the first branch extend significantly into financial matters, particularly in controlling government expenditures and revenues. This authority is critical in shaping public policy and ensuring fiscal responsibility. Through budgetary powers, the legislature authorizes the allocation of funds to various government departments and programs, influencing priorities and national development strategies. The control of taxation and public debt also falls under this category, underscoring the legislature's role in economic

governance.

Power of the Purse

The "power of the purse" refers to the exclusive authority of the first branch to approve government budgets and expenditures. This power acts as a fundamental check on the executive branch, preventing unauthorized spending and promoting transparency. Legislators review budget proposals, propose amendments, and ultimately pass appropriation bills that dictate government spending. By controlling financial resources, the first branch can influence policy implementation and hold the executive accountable.

Taxation Authority

The first branch holds the constitutional power to impose taxes, levies, and duties necessary for government operations. This authority ensures that revenue generation aligns with public needs and economic conditions. Legislative bodies debate tax policies, rates, and exemptions, balancing revenue requirements with fairness and economic growth considerations. Taxation authority is vital for sustaining government functions and enabling public services.

Oversight and Investigative Powers

Oversight is a critical component of the powers of the first branch, enabling it to monitor and supervise the executive branch and other government entities. Through oversight, the legislature ensures that laws are properly implemented and public resources are used appropriately. This function involves a variety of mechanisms, including hearings, inquiries, and investigations. Effective oversight promotes transparency, combats corruption, and strengthens democratic accountability.

Committee System

The committee system is a key instrument for legislative oversight. Specialized committees examine specific policy areas, scrutinize government actions, and gather information. These committees have the power to summon officials, request documents, and conduct hearings. Their findings inform legislative decisions and can lead to reforms or sanctions if misconduct is uncovered. The committee system enhances the first branch's capacity to perform detailed and continuous oversight.

Impeachment and Removal Powers

In many constitutional systems, the first branch possesses the authority to initiate impeachment proceedings against high-ranking officials, including the executive and judiciary. This power serves as an ultimate check on abuses of office, allowing the legislature to remove officials who violate laws or constitutional duties. Impeachment processes are typically rigorous and require substantial evidence, reflecting the seriousness of this legislative power.

Constitutional Amendment Powers

The powers of the first branch often include the authority to amend or revise the constitution. This power is crucial for adapting the fundamental legal framework to changing societal needs and correcting structural deficiencies. Constitutional amendment procedures are usually more stringent than ordinary legislation, requiring supermajorities or additional approvals to prevent arbitrary changes. The first branch's role in constitutional amendments underscores its foundational importance in governance.

Procedural Requirements

The process for constitutional amendments varies but typically involves multiple stages, including proposal, debate, and ratification. The first branch may require a two-thirds or three-fourths majority to pass an amendment, ensuring broad consensus. Some systems also require approval through referenda or by other branches of government. These procedural safeguards maintain constitutional stability while allowing necessary evolution.

Scope of Amendments

While the first branch can amend the constitution, certain provisions may be protected or require more rigorous procedures. Amendments can address a wide range of issues, including rights protections, governmental structure, and electoral processes. The ability to amend the constitution empowers the first branch to respond to societal changes and uphold democratic principles effectively.

Additional Powers and Functions

Beyond the primary powers outlined, the first branch possesses additional authorities that support its legislative and oversight roles. These include ratifying treaties, confirming appointments, and regulating internal procedures. These supplementary powers enhance the first branch's influence over national policy and governance.

Treaty Ratification

The first branch often holds the power to approve or reject international treaties negotiated by the executive branch. This function ensures that international agreements have democratic legitimacy and align with national interests. Legislative ratification of treaties integrates foreign policy within the constitutional framework.

Confirmation of Appointments

In some systems, the first branch confirms key government appointments, including judges, cabinet members, and ambassadors. This power serves as a check on the executive's appointment authority, promoting meritocracy and preventing abuses. Confirmation hearings provide an opportunity for legislative scrutiny and public transparency.

Rulemaking and Internal Governance

The first branch exercises authority over its own procedures, including setting rules for

debates, voting, and member conduct. This internal governance ensures efficient functioning and orderly legislative processes. The power to regulate its affairs allows the first branch to maintain independence and uphold institutional integrity.

1. Legislative authority to enact and amend laws
2. Budgetary control and taxation powers
3. Oversight of the executive and government agencies
4. Constitutional amendment capabilities
5. Ratification of treaties and confirmation of appointments

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 'first branch' in the context of government powers?

The 'first branch' typically refers to the legislative branch of government, responsible for making laws.

What are the primary powers of the legislative branch?

The legislative branch has the power to create, amend, and repeal laws; control government spending; declare war; and oversee the executive branch through hearings and investigations.

How does the legislative branch check the powers of the executive branch?

The legislative branch can check the executive by overriding presidential vetoes, approving appointments, controlling the budget, and through impeachment powers.

What role does the first branch play in the budget process?

The first branch has the authority to draft, debate, and approve the government's budget and appropriations, determining how public funds are allocated.

Can the first branch declare war?

Yes, the power to declare war is vested in the legislative branch, allowing it to authorize military action.

How does the first branch influence foreign policy?

While the executive conducts foreign policy, the first branch influences it by ratifying treaties, approving appointments of diplomats, and controlling funding for foreign initiatives.

What is the significance of the first branch's power to impeach?

The first branch can impeach and remove executive and judicial officials for misconduct, serving as a crucial check on abuses of power.

How does the first branch represent the people?

Members of the first branch are elected representatives who legislate on behalf of their constituents, ensuring public interests are considered in lawmaking.

How have the powers of the first branch evolved over time?

Over time, the legislative branch's powers have expanded through laws and constitutional amendments, adapting to changing political and social needs while maintaining checks and balances.

Additional Resources

1. *The Powers of the First Branch: Foundations of Judicial Authority*

This book explores the constitutional basis of the judiciary's powers, focusing on how the first branch of government operates within the framework of checks and balances. It delves into landmark cases that have defined the scope and limits of judicial authority. Readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of the judiciary's role in interpreting laws and protecting constitutional rights.

2. *Judicial Review and the First Branch: Shaping American Law*

An in-depth analysis of judicial review as exercised by the first branch, this book examines its historical development and impact on American jurisprudence. It discusses key Supreme Court decisions that have expanded or constrained judicial power. The author also considers contemporary debates about the role of the courts in democratic governance.

3. *Separation of Powers and the First Branch*

This work investigates the delicate balance between the three branches of government, with a primary focus on the judiciary. It explains how the first branch maintains its independence while interacting with the legislative and executive branches. The book highlights conflicts and cooperation that define the functioning of the U.S. government.

4. *The First Branch and Constitutional Interpretation*

Focusing on the interpretative role of the judiciary, this book discusses various theories of constitutional interpretation employed by the first branch. It examines how courts approach

ambiguous or contested constitutional provisions. The text offers case studies illustrating differing judicial philosophies and their effects on law and society.

5. *Power and Responsibility: The First Branch in American Democracy*

This title analyzes the responsibilities entrusted to the first branch and how it exercises power responsibly within a democratic system. It covers judicial ethics, accountability, and the impact of judicial decisions on public policy. The book also addresses challenges to the legitimacy and authority of the courts.

6. *The First Branch in Crisis: Challenges to Judicial Authority*

Examining periods of tension and conflict, this book details crises that have tested the authority of the judiciary. It explores instances where the first branch faced political pressure, public criticism, or legislative attempts to curb its powers. The author offers insights into how the judiciary has navigated and survived these challenges.

7. *Federal Courts and the First Branch Powers*

This comprehensive guide covers the structure and jurisdiction of federal courts as integral parts of the first branch. It explains how federal courts exercise their powers across different levels, from district courts to the Supreme Court. The book also discusses procedural rules and the significance of federal judicial decisions.

8. *The Role of the First Branch in Protecting Civil Liberties*

This book highlights the judiciary's critical role in safeguarding individual rights and liberties against governmental overreach. Through analysis of key civil rights cases, it demonstrates how the first branch has shaped the legal landscape for equality and justice. The author emphasizes the ongoing importance of judicial protection in a changing society.

9. *Judicial Power and Political Influence: The Dynamics of the First Branch*

Exploring the intersection of law and politics, this book investigates how political factors influence judicial power and decision-making. It addresses appointments, public opinion, and political ideology as elements affecting the first branch. The text provides a nuanced view of the complex relationship between the judiciary and the broader political environment.

Powers Of The First Branch

Find other PDF articles:

<http://www.speargrouppllc.com/textbooks-suggest-005/pdf?dataid=eIS30-3330&title=what-to-do-with-old-textbooks-near-me.pdf>

powers of the first branch: Advances in Automation III Andrey A. Radionov, Vadim R. Gasiyarov, 2022-01-18 This book reports on innovative research and developments in automation. Spanning a wide range of disciplines, including communication engineering, power engineering, control engineering, instrumentation, signal processing and cybersecurity, it focuses on methods and findings aimed at improving the control and monitoring of industrial and manufacturing processes as well as safety. Based on the International Russian Automation Conference, held on

September 5-11, 2021, in Sochi, Russia, the book provides academics and professionals with a timely overview of and extensive information on the state of the art in the field of automation and control systems, and fosters new ideas and collaborations between groups in different countries.

powers of the first branch: Journal of Proceedings of the First Branch City Council of Baltimore at the Sessions of ... Baltimore (Md.). City Council. First Branch, MD--CITY COUNCIL BALTIMORE, 1845

powers of the first branch: *The Powers of the U.S. Congress* Brien Hallett, 2016-10-03
Offering a unique resource for students, scholars, and citizens, this work fully explains all of the 21 enumerated powers of the U.S. Congress, from the power of the purse to the power to declare war. This work presents a comprehensive overview of the 21 congressional powers enumerated in the Constitution of the United States through essays that focus on each power. These informative essays introduce and explain each power individually, address its evolution from 1789 to the modern day and into the foreseeable future, and provide real-world examples of how each power has been applied through U.S. history. The comprehensive content enables an understanding of the mutually supporting interplay of all of the legislative powers in our government's system of checks and balances, and it allows readers to better appreciate how radical and daring the framers were at the Philadelphia convention in 1787. Readers will learn about Congressional powers that greatly impact modern citizens, many of which are frequently mentioned in news media due to policy struggles over budget, immigration, and national security; debates regarding the ideal size and role of government; and many others. The contributors also address questions regarding the responsibilities of the Congress, the ways in which Congress has met or failed to meet these responsibilities over the past two centuries, and what changes to congressional power may come in the future.

powers of the first branch: *The Powers of the Presidency* CQ Press,, 2012-10-19 Providing both a historical and contemporary perspective on presidential powers, *The Powers of the Presidency* guides readers through the presidency as a constitutional office, covering how it was shaped by design at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and by later constitutional amendments, Supreme Court decisions, and custom and precedent. It discusses the various roles of the chief executive, including chief of state, chief administrator, legislative leader, chief diplomat, commander in chief, and chief economist. The fourth edition of this accessible and affordable work has been significantly updated and features: · Coverage of the final years of George W. Bush and the first three years of Barack Obama's presidency · Extensive coverage of the Obama Administration's efforts to curb economic decline · Updates on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the killing of Osama bin Laden, and on the treatment of detainees at Guantanamo Bay · Coverage of the Arab Spring protests and U.S. involvement in the military intervention in Libya · Barack Obama's health care reform legislation

powers of the first branch: The Collector , 1915

powers of the first branch: **Documents Illustrative of the Formation of the Union of the American States** Library of Congress. Legislative Reference Service, 1927

powers of the first branch: Official Gazette of the United States Patent and Trademark Office United States. Patent and Trademark Office, 2002

powers of the first branch: **Sea Power** Charles Hall (H.), 1916

powers of the first branch: **The Water-power of Maine** , 1868

powers of the first branch: *The Water-power of Maine* Maine. Hydrographic Survey, 1868

powers of the first branch: Provisional Report Upon the Water-power of Maine Maine. Hydrographic Survey, Walter Wells, 1868

powers of the first branch: Official Gazette of the United States Patent Office United States. Patent Office, 1964

powers of the first branch: **Niles' National Register** Hezekiah Niles, William Ogden Niles, Jeremiah Hughes, George Beatty, 1822

powers of the first branch: Poor's Manual of Public Utilities; Street, Railway, Gas, Electric, Water, Power, Telephone and Telegraph Companies , 1918

powers of the first branch: Study on Federal Regulation United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Government Operations, 1977

powers of the first branch: Study on Federal Regulation: Congressional oversight of regulatory agencies United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Government Operations, United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Governmental Affairs, 1977

powers of the first branch: Wisconsin Statutes, 1929 Wisconsin, 1929

powers of the first branch: Wisconsin Statutes, 1935 Wisconsin, 1935

powers of the first branch: Appletons' Annual Cyclopædia and Register of Important Events of the Year 1876 Anonymous, 2024-06-02 Reprint of the original, first published in 1881.

powers of the first branch: The Weekly Reporter , 1864

Related to powers of the first branch

List of 100 Superpowers (common and uncommon) Below is a list of 100 superpowers that you may, or may not, be familiar with. If you're looking for inspiration these can help too. No matter what your needs might be, I hope this list helps get

Category:Powers | Superpower Wiki | Fandom Abilities and powers that are beyond humans. Community content is available under CC-BY-SA unless otherwise noted

Top 10 Best Superpowers - TheTopTens You've likely daydreamed about soaring through the sky or possessing superhuman strength. Superpowers have been a staple of human imagination for centuries, igniting our dreams and

100 Best Superpowers - So after some of the nerdiest meetings to ever take place, we settled on this list of the 100 coolest super powers. We judged each power on the following criteria: Gadgets and tech, like

Is "Chad Powers" Based on a True Story? All About the Skit That 17 hours ago Chad Powers, which premieres on Sept. 30, is a six-episode television show that stars Powell as Holliday, a former hotshot college quarterback who blew his chance at a

Complete List of Superpowers and Abilities in Comics and Movies Explore the world of superpowers with our detailed list. From iconic to rare abilities, discover the traits that define heroes and villains across comics and movies. There are 507 superpowers

Greatest Superpowers Of All Time, Ranked - CBR Superheroes have changed how modern pop culture thinks about superpowers after countless stories of gods, titans, and heroes shaping the world from ancient civilization

Superpowers | Superpower Wiki | Fandom Superpowers are defined as powers and abilities that are beyond humans and nature, entailing capabilities that are fantastical, paranormal, and extraordinary. Superpowers are extremely

List of Powers | Comic Superpowers Wiki | Fandom The following is a list of powers that have been developed by gifted and enhanced individuals. Absorption: the ability to absorb the powers, energies, memories, knowledge, talents,

Superpower Wiki | Fandom The Superpower Wiki (also known as Powerlisting) is the largest collection of superpowers known to humankind. With over 20,000 pages and climbing, the wiki aims to document and identify

List of 100 Superpowers (common and uncommon) Below is a list of 100 superpowers that you may, or may not, be familiar with. If you're looking for inspiration these can help too. No matter what your needs might be, I hope this list helps get

Category:Powers | Superpower Wiki | Fandom Abilities and powers that are beyond humans. Community content is available under CC-BY-SA unless otherwise noted

Top 10 Best Superpowers - TheTopTens You've likely daydreamed about soaring through the sky or possessing superhuman strength. Superpowers have been a staple of human imagination for centuries, igniting our dreams and

100 Best Superpowers - So after some of the nerdiest meetings to ever take place, we settled on

this list of the 100 coolest super powers. We judged each power on the following criteria: Gadgets and tech, like

Is “Chad Powers” Based on a True Story? All About the Skit That 17 hours ago Chad Powers, which premieres on Sept. 30, is a six-episode television show that stars Powell as Holliday, a former hotshot college quarterback who blew his chance at a

Complete List of Superpowers and Abilities in Comics and Movies Explore the world of superpowers with our detailed list. From iconic to rare abilities, discover the traits that define heroes and villains across comics and movies. There are 507 superpowers

Greatest Superpowers Of All Time, Ranked - CBR Superheroes have changed how modern pop culture thinks about superpowers after countless stories of gods, titans, and heroes shaping the world from ancient civilization

Superpowers | Superpower Wiki | Fandom Superpowers are defined as powers and abilities that are beyond humans and nature, entailing capabilities that are fantastical, paranormal, and extraordinary. Superpowers are extremely

List of Powers | Comic Superpowers Wiki | Fandom The following is a list of powers that have been developed by gifted and enhanced individuals. Absorption: the ability to absorb the powers, energies, memories, knowledge, talents,

Superpower Wiki | Fandom The Superpower Wiki (also known as Powerlisting) is the largest collection of superpowers known to humankind. With over 20,000 pages and climbing, the wiki aims to document and identify

List of 100 Superpowers (common and uncommon) Below is a list of 100 superpowers that you may, or may not, be familiar with. If you’re looking for inspiration these can help too. No matter what your needs might be, I hope this list helps get

Category:Powers | Superpower Wiki | Fandom Abilities and powers that are beyond humans. Community content is available under CC-BY-SA unless otherwise noted

Top 10 Best Superpowers - TheTopTens You've likely daydreamed about soaring through the sky or possessing superhuman strength. Superpowers have been a staple of human imagination for centuries, igniting our dreams and

100 Best Superpowers - So after some of the nerdiest meetings to ever take place, we settled on this list of the 100 coolest super powers. We judged each power on the following criteria: Gadgets and tech, like

Is “Chad Powers” Based on a True Story? All About the Skit That 17 hours ago Chad Powers, which premieres on Sept. 30, is a six-episode television show that stars Powell as Holliday, a former hotshot college quarterback who blew his chance at a

Complete List of Superpowers and Abilities in Comics and Movies Explore the world of superpowers with our detailed list. From iconic to rare abilities, discover the traits that define heroes and villains across comics and movies. There are 507 superpowers

Greatest Superpowers Of All Time, Ranked - CBR Superheroes have changed how modern pop culture thinks about superpowers after countless stories of gods, titans, and heroes shaping the world from ancient civilization

Superpowers | Superpower Wiki | Fandom Superpowers are defined as powers and abilities that are beyond humans and nature, entailing capabilities that are fantastical, paranormal, and extraordinary. Superpowers are extremely

List of Powers | Comic Superpowers Wiki | Fandom The following is a list of powers that have been developed by gifted and enhanced individuals. Absorption: the ability to absorb the powers, energies, memories, knowledge, talents,

Superpower Wiki | Fandom The Superpower Wiki (also known as Powerlisting) is the largest collection of superpowers known to humankind. With over 20,000 pages and climbing, the wiki aims to document and identify

Related to powers of the first branch

Powers of the Executive Branch (Houston Public Media13h) “The founders refrained from making the president all powerful. Instead, they created an Executive Branch with clearly

Powers of the Executive Branch (Houston Public Media13h) “The founders refrained from making the president all powerful. Instead, they created an Executive Branch with clearly

Opinion: Trump’s dream of infinite presidential power (3dOpinion) Specifically, to paraphrase Trump and his allies, it gives him the inherent authority to remove any official working in the

Opinion: Trump’s dream of infinite presidential power (3dOpinion) Specifically, to paraphrase Trump and his allies, it gives him the inherent authority to remove any official working in the

The Trump administration is pushing courts to make more ‘new law’ (5don MSN) Judges across the country are being forced to confront unprecedented claims of presidential power in ways they’ve never had

The Trump administration is pushing courts to make more ‘new Law’ (5don MSN) Judges across the country are being forced to confront unprecedented claims of presidential power in ways they’ve never had

The Trump Administration Targets Congress—Again (The Atlantic4mon) This is an edition of The Atlantic Daily, a newsletter that guides you through the biggest stories of the day, helps you discover new ideas, and recommends the best in culture. Sign up for it here

The Trump Administration Targets Congress—Again (The Atlantic4mon) This is an edition of The Atlantic Daily, a newsletter that guides you through the biggest stories of the day, helps you discover new ideas, and recommends the best in culture. Sign up for it here

As power shifts toward the executive branch, presidents matter more than ever (Christian Science Monitor3mon) Why is Christian Science in our name? Our name is about honesty. The Monitor is owned by The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and we’ve always been transparent about that. The church publishes the

As power shifts toward the executive branch, presidents matter more than ever (Christian Science Monitor3mon) Why is Christian Science in our name? Our name is about honesty. The Monitor is owned by The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and we’ve always been transparent about that. The church publishes the

The deep state’s assault on popular sovereignty is finally weakening (4don MSNOpinion) The entrenched deep state bureaucracy is finally losing some of its power to create laws without accountability to the people

The deep state’s assault on popular sovereignty is finally weakening (4don MSNOpinion) The entrenched deep state bureaucracy is finally losing some of its power to create laws without accountability to the people

Beyond 'draining the swamp': How Trump is knocking down checks on presidential power (13d) President Trump wants to be able to fire far more executive branch employees at will — upending checks on presidential power

Beyond 'draining the swamp': How Trump is knocking down checks on presidential power (13d) President Trump wants to be able to fire far more executive branch employees at will — upending checks on presidential power

State elected leaders talk about balancing power (KELO Sioux Falls on MSN12d) For the better part of 90 minutes on Thursday night, eight of South Dakota state government’s top officials explained how the

State elected leaders talk about balancing power (KELO Sioux Falls on MSN12d) For the better part of 90 minutes on Thursday night, eight of South Dakota state government’s top officials explained how the