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**(S.D.)- Larson To Be School And Public Lands Commissioner**



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 05/20/2013 02:44 PM

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) - Gov. Dennis Daugaard says he will appoint Vern Larson of Vivian as South Dakota's commissioner of school and public lands.

Larson, a former state treasurer and state auditor, will replace Jarrod Johnson as head of the agency that administers state lands set aside to support schools and state institutions.

Johnson announced last month he is resigning effective Aug. 15 for family reasons. Larson's appointment will take effect when Johnson leaves the office.

Larson will serve out the remainder of the term, which ends in January 2015, but he will not be a candidate for the office in 2014.

Larson was elected state auditor in 1978 and was re-elected five times, serving from 1979-2003. He was elected state treasurer in 2002, serving two terms from 2003-2011.