

2-28-2017

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne on Tuesday, February 28. Today in Committee of the Whole we debated for the first time the following Senate Files, which would:

- create a committee of investment professionals to help the State Treasurer invest Wyoming's savings
- require the creation of a contract program for community mental health and substance abuse treatment to reduce the demand for involuntary commitments
- further define sexual assault by school employees

We killed a bill that would have required small water projects under \$35,000 to go through the same approval process that large water projects have to follow.

In a narrow vote, we chose to finish Committee of the Whole today, despite objections made to this abrupt end. The decision ended the introduction of Senate Files to the House, and so left nine bills unheard. One of those was a bill authorizing a women's one-shot antelope hunt, to mirror the men's one-shot antelope hunt. An attempt was made to suspend the rules and hear this bill, but that motion failed. I did not support the suspension of the rules, but I do support the bill, and hope it comes back in the future. We also did not hear SF 165, the Senate's solution to the education funding crisis. This bill was strictly a cut to education when it came from the Senate, but the House Education Committee amended into the bill a repeal of two tax exemptions. This amended the beyond its scope, and its death was appropriate.

Tomorrow, we will continue with Second and Third Reading of Senate Files that have already been brought to the House.

Goodnight for now