

2-19-2018

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne and the 2018 Budget Session.

First, amendments were brought forward to HB08, a bill regarding stalking laws. The amendments attempted to address the definition of fear in the bill and how fear would be assessed by law enforcement. Both amendments failed, but HB08 did move on to a third reading. I support this bill.

HB28 increases the reporting of education information from children of military families. An amendment that would have changed the bill to apply only to actively deployed military members failed. HB28 then went to a final vote and passed the House. This bill is designed to track the educational outcomes of military dependents, to ensure that this mobile population does not fall through the cracks. I supported the bill.

HB74 creates an Investment Task Force to help coordinate the investment of state funds and public employee retirement funds. After discussion, HB74 passed the House. The Treasurer's Office and the Retirement Board invest billions of dollars of taxpayer money; finding efficiencies and better investment strategies is critical to optimizing our savings. I supported the bill.

Another major point of today's session was the beginning of debate on the budget bill, HB01. HB01 will be discussed in Committee of the Whole for the next few days as the House goes through the budget of every state agency one by one. It will again be open for discussion in the House on Second and Third Readings. It is my responsibility to present the budgets of the following entities: Office of Public Defender, Attorney General's office, Livestock Board, Community College Commission, Supreme Court, Board of Law Examiners and Judicial Districts, Commission on Judicial Conduct and Ethics, School Finance, and the Department of Education.

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Thank you