

2-20-2018

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

The House started the day with the discussion and passage of several amendments pertaining to the governing rules of the legislative body.

Following the passage of several amendments to its rules, the House moved into the Third Reading of select House Bills. With no debate, a set of three bills were passed by the House. The set included HB76 and HB88 from the Joint Appropriations Committee. HB76 deals with the transfer of the state supplemental security income program from the Department of Family Services to the Department of Health. HB88 provides for an operations division to the State Construction Department and the budget standards required for that division. The third bill in the set was HB126, dealing with limited liability companies established as a series of members, managers, or transferable interests. I voted for all of these bills except HB126. This bill is hard to understand, and frankly seems like an avenue for nefarious business.

HB08, regarding stalking revisions, was read for the third time with two amendments brought forth. The amendments provided for more specific wording, to clarify that claims to address stalking must be made by a "reasonable" person and that the fear described in the bill can only qualify if it is deemed to be "substantial." Both of these amendments were eventually adopted after discussion and testimony from those in favor and opposed to the amendments. HB08 then went to a final vote and was passed by the House. I supported the bill.

This afternoon also saw the continuation of the initial reading and debate of the budget bill, HB01, in Committee of the Whole. Following the First Reading, the bill will be open for amendments and discussion in the Second and Third Readings.

The broadband grant bill made it through the Senate Minerals Committee, and still needs some work. I appreciate the Sublette County Commissioners and our towns for their support in this

effort. High speed, high quality, reasonably priced broadband is essential for a community to remain economically relevant in today's landscape.

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Thank you