

2/5/2019

Hello Sublette County,

This is Albert Sommers in Cheyenne on Tuesday the 5th. Today ended up being a very productive day. The House took all passed general file bills from last night and passed them again on 2nd reading. Ten Senate files crossed over for consideration by the House Committee of the Whole. We are approximately halfway through the Legislative Session and bills will start heading to the Governor for consideration soon.

On 2nd reading today, the House considered and passed 37 bills on voice vote, including several bills that had generated a great deal of debate in Committee of the Whole yesterday. These bills included:

[HB0103](#) – Reporting of abortions

[HB0106](#) – Party affiliation changes. This bill was further amended today to allow unaffiliated voters to register at the primary. I still see no need for changing our long-standing election laws.

[HB0107](#) – Sexual assault parental rights. This bill allows for the termination of parental rights of a person convicted of sexual assault under Wyoming law. This bill has been amended to require a conviction.

[HB0235](#) – Care of animals. Much of the debate on this bill surrounded the balance between protecting animals from abuse and protecting normal agriculture operations.

[HB0282](#) – Tobacco products. This bill changes the definition of tobacco products to include all nicotine products, including electronic cigarettes, and raises the cigarette tax by 50 cents a pack.

[HJ0006](#) – Legislative sessions. This resolution calls for a constitutional amendment that changes the General Session and Budget Session schedule for the Legislature. Instead, the Legislature

would convene for two regular sessions. The resolution also removes the 2/3 vote requirement for introduction of bills in the even-year sessions. I support this bill because we waste too much time on introductory debate in a budget session.

Two bills that failed Committee of the Whole yesterday were Medicaid Expansion and an increase to the minimum wage. I voted against both of these.

Eleven of the 2nd reading bills were accelerated to 3rd reading per House Rule 7-7 in order to utilize more of the afternoon and balance the schedule. These bills tend to be noncontroversial and considered ready for passage by the body. Bills passed by the House on accelerated 3rd reading included:

[HB0161](#) – Statewide 911 Coordinator

[HB0211](#) – Mental Health and substance abuse coverage parity

[HJ0010](#) – Medal of Honor Cities

Eleven bills were considered in the House on third reading. All 11 bills were passed and sent to the Senate. Bills of note included these I supported:

[HB0127](#) - Tax refund to elderly and disabled

[HB0171](#) - Hemp and cannabidiol regulation. This bill will allow for hemp farming and the sale of CBD oil with less than .3%THC.

[HB0247](#) - Broadband development program-amendments. This is a bill I sponsored this year.

This afternoon, the House considered 10 Senate Files during Committee of the Whole. All Bills passed on a voice vote. Interesting bills included these I supported:

[SJ0003](#) – Wyoming Women’s Suffrage Day

[SF0017](#) – County Clerk Records

[SF0018](#) – Campaign finance revisions

For details on all 2019 bills, see <https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019>

I can be reached at albert@albertsommers.com with questions or concerns.

Thank you