

2/6/2019

Hello Sublette County,

This is Albert Sommers in Cheyenne on Wednesday the 6th. We have started to consider legislation that has come over from the Senate. Today saw a lot of debate on many bills resulting in another long day.

On 2nd reading today, the House considered and passed 10 Senate files on voice vote. These bills include:

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

[SF0017](#) – County Clerk Records

[SF0018](#) – Campaign finance revisions

Twenty-six bills were considered in the House on third reading. Twenty-four bills were passed and sent to the Senate. Two bills failed. Bills of note that passed on third reading include:

[HB0103](#) – Reporting of abortions. This bill protects the private information of women better than current state statute. I successfully amended the bill to strike the requirements of reporting personal characteristics of the patient as well as the type of procedure performed. With my amendments, I was able to support the bill.

[HB0106](#) – Party affiliation changes and [HB0192](#) - Voter fraud prevention. I voted against these bills, as I do not believe our current election system is broken.

[HB0107](#) – Sexual assault parental rights. This bill is designed to protect the parental rights of a mother if she has been sexually assaulted and gives birth as a result of that assault. I supported this bill.

[HB0293](#) – UW student housing. This bill would provide a mechanism for the state to help the University fund new student housing. This would include a loan from our Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account that would be repaid at a higher interest rate than the fund

currently earns. These dorms were not new when I went to UW forty years ago, and I supported the bill.

[HJ0006](#) – Legislative sessions. This resolution calls for a constitutional amendment to remove the more strict rules for Introduction of Bills during even-year (budget) sessions. Currently, a bill's sponsor has only two minutes to explain their bill to the House or Senate. Also, a two-thirds majority is required to introduce a bill during the budget session. I support the constitutional amendment, because it is hard to explain a complicated bill in two minutes, and the lengthy introductory voting process allows a minority of legislators to kill bills that standing committees have spent all summer developing.

[HB0282](#) – Tobacco products failed on 3rd reading. This bill would have defined electronic cigarettes as tobacco products and raised the cigarette tax. This bill would have brought vapes into the taxing structure, which I completely support. I had amended the bill significantly to try and get the vape tax structure right, but in the end the bill was not sound legislation. I voted against the bill, but will work to find a vape solution during the interim, as it has become an epidemic in our schools.

[HB0192](#) – Voter fraud prevention also failed on 3rd reading with a vote of 29-30-1. The bill would have required voters to show a valid photo ID. The Secretary of State has said he does not have any evidence of broad voter fraud in the state.

Due to vigorous debate on 3rd reading bills, the House did not have time to consider any further Senate files in Committee of the Whole.

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.