

2-12-2020

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting on the third day of the 2020 Budget Session. It's been a very busy start to the session. There have been 397 bills filed so far, 256 in the House and 141 in the Senate. Of these 41 bills have failed introduction or have been withdrawn by their sponsors.

The House debated or voted on over 40 bills today, including the following bills which I supported, and which passed introduction: HB79 Railroad Safety, HB171 Wyoming gaming commission, HB91 Economic Diversification incentives for mineral exploration, HB179 Electricity generation taxation (solar tax), and HJ01, which is a constitutional amendment to divert a portion of state land royalty payments to help fund the K12 education funding deficit. We also passed on introduction HB137, Worker's compensation – Legislators. This bill would allow legislators to be a part of the state worker's compensation program. After driving I-80 in the winter for eight years, I believe the state should compensate legislators for injuries in the line of duty.

Bills that failed the introduction vote and which I did not support included:

- [HB0067](#) Child marriage restriction, which would have increased the age of legal marriage from 16 to 18. I did not support this bill because there could be special cases where marriage at 16 is appropriate with parental consent.
- [HB0107](#) Neglect and Abuse. I felt this bill went too far and could have resulted in neglect not being prosecuted.
- [HB0083](#) UW board of trustees – selection by electorate. This bill would have allowed UW trustees to be elected by the public, instead of appointed by the Governor. This bill was clearly trying to circumvent the Wyoming Constitution, which requires that UW trustees be appointed by the Governor.
- [HB0166](#) Death Penalty repeal. Law enforcement firmly believes that the death penalty is a deterrent against murder, and so I believe the sentence has value.

One of the bills I am sponsoring this session, [HB0058 – State Engineer list of approved flumes](#), was approved for introduction and referred to the House Agriculture Committee. This legislation would require the development and maintenance of a list of approved infrastructure for ditches, canals, reservoirs and streams.

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

Thank you