

2-20-2020

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne on the ninth day of the 2020 Budget Session. As of Thursday afternoon, 43 bills had been passed out of the House to await consideration in the Senate. The Senate has passed 35 bills that the House may now consider. All bills must be passed by a Committee in their house of origin by Monday, February 24, in order to move forward this session. Thursday, February 27 is “crossover,” meaning that any bill that has not been passed out of its chamber of origin will not be further considered.

A few of the bills that passed Committee of the Whole, and which I supported, included the following: a bill that allows for donations to construct wildlife conservation efforts, a bill that taxes vapes, a bill that funds multiple water projects, and a bill that creates a Select Committee on Tribal Relations.

A few of the interesting bills we considered today include:

- [HB 13, Sage Grouse Mitigation Credits](#). This bill would establish a statutory program for compensatory mitigation credits for conservation of the greater sage grouse. Currently, sage grouse mitigation is required for some industrial activities through an executive order. This bill allows the people of Wyoming to debate the concept, and design a program that fits Wyoming. I support this bill.
- [HB 68, Sex offender – prohibited access to school facilities](#). This bill would repeal exceptions that allow registered sex offenders to be in, on, or near school buildings and grounds under certain specific circumstances. While I support the intent, the original version was so broad in scope it would have prohibited a registered sex offender parent from picking up their own child from school. An amendment was offered to address this issue and improve the bill.
- [HB 194 Wyoming department of agriculture fees](#). This bill would increase certain Department of Agriculture fees that haven’t been increased in many years. The Department of Agriculture had a couple of large budget requests, and its fees were not

keeping up. Among other fee increases, this bill would increase license fees for companies that sell feed products. Both Colorado and Montana have much higher fees for licensing feed products. This was a Joint Appropriations Committee bill, and I was selected to present the bill on the House floor today. It passed Committee of the Whole.

Tomorrow we will have Third Reading of the Budget. This is the final opportunity for members to offer amendments. I expect this to be a long day. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I will spend a good deal of time defending the Budget on the House floor.

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

Thank you,

Albert Sommers