

2-25-2020

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne on the twelfth day of the 2020 Budget Session. It was another late night as we worked to consider and debate bills ahead of “crossover” on Thursday when any bill that has not been passed out of its chamber of origin will die.

The House Appropriations Committee met today to consider Senate Amendments to its Budget Bill. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees are working their way through the other bodies’ amendments, considering them for adoption or compromise.

Today on the House floor, we considered bills on Second Reading, Third Reading and General File. A few of the bills we considered today were:

- House Bill 84, Food freedom amendments, would authorize the commercial sale of certain homemade food items. The bill was approved unanimously by the House Agriculture Committee and passed Second Reading in the House today. I supported the bill.
- House Bill 200, Reliable and dispatchable low-carbon energy standards. This bill would incentivize carbon capture by allowing utilities to recover the cost of construction of carbon capture equipment from ratepayers. The bill requires utilities to go through the Public Service Commission before they can consider rate changes and puts a cap at a 2 percent rate change. I supported this bill, which passed Committee of the Whole in the House today, but I am concerned about the cost shift to rate payers, though it would only be \$2 on a \$100 power bill.
- HB 176, Game and Fish – data protection. This bill would limit the release of personally identifiable information including geographic information about the legal taking of wildlife. The bill passed Second Reading in the House today, and I supported the bill.
- HB 40, School finance – model recalibration. This bill would create the Select Committee on School Finance Recalibration. The recalibration process is designed to study the state’s education system and ensure it remains cost-based. The Legislature is

constitutionally required to go through this process at least twice a decade. I have served on this committee twice.

- *HB 194, Wyoming department of agriculture fees.* This bill would increase certain fees to register feed products, animal remedies, and fertilizers 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. This bill was approved by the House of Representatives today and will now be considered by the Senate.

As always, I can be reached with questions or concerns at [albert@albertsommers.com](mailto:albert@albertsommers.com).

Thank you,

Albert Sommers