

2-27-2020

Greetings Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne on the fourteenth day of the 2020 Budget Session. Today is “crossover,” meaning any bill that was not passed out of its chamber of origin will not be considered further this session. As a result, we spent the majority of the day focused on Third Reading bills.

We debated several important bills on a wide variety of topics. These include:

- House Bill 42, Agriculture marketing funds – processing plants. This bill would help support meat processing plants for Wyoming product export and direct funds in the agriculture marketing subaccount to support such processing plants. The bill was passed by the House of Representatives today and now heads to the Senate. I helped draft this bill.
- HB 159, Monthly payment of ad valorem tax on mineral production. This bill would ensure monthly payments of ad valorem tax on mineral production. It was sponsored by the Select Committee on Coal/Mineral Bankruptcies which formed this fall to help better position Wyoming to deal with such events in the future. I worked with our local natural gas producers, and helped amend this bill to push the implementation date out to 2023. The bill has a provision that allows counties to work with industry to meet their cash flow needs during implementation. After heavy debate it passed the House of Representatives and will now be debated by the Senate.
- HB 214, County delinquent tax sales – amendments would amend advertising requirements for delinquent tax sales by county treasurers and ensure counties are able to recoup the costs for such advertising. I supported this bill, which was passed by the House of Representatives today and will now be considered by the Senate.
- HB 99, Animal reimbursement program – amendments would allow for claims for reimbursement for certain brucellosis containment efforts. I’m a co-sponsor and drafter of this bill. It was passed by the House today and will now be debated by the Senate.

- HB 171, Wyoming Gaming Commission would create a formalized gaming commission to regulate the industry here in Wyoming, provide options to the legislature, put a moratorium on gray games, and would outlaw gray games on July 1, 2021, if the Legislature does not legalize them next session. Because for-profit gambling continues to grow in Wyoming, it's important to look at how we can responsibly regulate the industry. There were 8 amendments filed to this bill, which we debated today. I supported this bill, and it passed the House.

One of my bills, HB 58, State Engineer list of approved flumes, was defeated on Third Reading today by three votes. This bill would have required the State Engineer's office to consider cost of measuring devices they require of irrigators.

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

Thank you,

Albert Sommers

PS – I chaired proceedings and managed debate on the House floor today during discussion of much of third reading in the afternoon.

