

3-11-2020

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne on the twenty-third day of the 2020 Budget Session. There is just one more day in the session. Governor Gordon is currently working his way through the Budget passed by the House and Senate yesterday. The House and the Senate continue to negotiate on the State Capital Construction bill, which includes construction projects for the state, community colleges, and UW.

A few of the key bills which the House considered today include:

- SF 42, Nicotine products – age verification and shipping. This bill requires age verification for remote sales of nicotine products, which should slow the sale of vapes to underage teens. I supported this bill and it passed the House today.
- SF 97, Born alive infant – means of care. This bill states that if an infant is born alive when an abortion procedure is performed, physicians would be required to “take medically appropriate and reasonable steps to preserve the life and health of an infant born alive with any chance of survival,” regardless of the infant’s chance of survival. Current law already states, “The commonly accepted means of care shall be employed in the treatment of any viable infant aborted alive.” The bill seems duplicative with current statute. An amendment was brought in Third Reading that would have reduced penalties to doctors. The amendment failed, but in general I support lesser penalties in abortion laws. I voted in favor of this bill, but with concerns about ambiguities in the language. The bill does not substantially change existing law, and it passed the House today.
- SF 139, Tax Lien enforcement – 2, will update the priority tax lien on ad valorem tax and the definition of "delinquent taxpayer" for purposes of liens on mineral production. I hope this bill will give county governments the tools they need to recoup lost tax dollars. This bill passed Third Reading today in the House, and I supported it.
- SF0089, Worker's compensation credit. This bill would provide a one-year rate holiday for employers who pay into the workers compensation program. The State’s actuaries

have said that the rate holiday will not adversely affect our worker's compensation fund. The stock market has been in a severe decline since the actuaries ran the numbers, and I do not want to see the worker's compensation fund take a \$16 million hit. I voted against the bill, but it passed the House.

As always, I can be reached with questions or concerns at [albert@albertsommers.com](mailto:albert@albertsommers.com). Stay tuned as there are still a few moving pieces as we close out session.

Thank you,

Albert Sommers