

3-9-2020

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne on the twenty-first day of the 2020 Budget Session. We have three scheduled days left for session, meaning we should conclude business on Thursday, March 12.

Late last Friday evening, House and Senate Leadership, along with members of the Joint Appropriations Committee, agreed to a deal on the Budget Bill. Today, Members of the House and Senate voted to approve this compromise. Governor Mark Gordon has through Thursday to veto any parts of the Budget he does not agree with. An override of the Governor's veto by the House and Senate will require a 2/3 majority vote.

As of Monday evening, the state capital construction bill does not appear likely to pass.

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

- SJ 1, Firearm and hunter education. This resolution requests the Game and Fish Commission work with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education to provide firearm and hunter education as a voluntary physical education elective in public schools. I supported this resolution, which passed Second Reading in the House today.
- 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 was approved by the Committee of the Whole in 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.” Current law already states, “The commonly accepted means of care shall be employed in the treatment of any viable infant aborted alive.” This bill seems duplicative of current statute. This bill passed Committee of the Whole in the House today.

- SF 139, Tax Lien enforcement – 2, would 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. The bill passed Committee of the Whole today in the House, and I supported it.
- SF 117, First responder workplace mental injury coverage. This bill would specify when mental injury is considered a compensable injury for first responders. I supported this bill and it passed Committee of the Whole today in the House.

As always, I can be reached with questions or concerns at albert@albertsommers.com. Stay tuned as there are many moving pieces as we close out session.

Thank you