

3/10/2021

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne on March 10, 2021. Tuesday, March 9, six bills passed 3rd Reading in the House, including my bill, [HB0101](#), Elk feedground closings - requirements, which would move the decision to close an elk feedground from the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission to the Governor. I drafted this bill because I am worried that the federal government will refuse to reauthorize elk feedgrounds that exist on federal land, and that it may become convenient to close elk feedgrounds, rather than look for new locations. Closure of elk feedgrounds could have a devastating effect on elk numbers, hunter opportunity, and on livestock producers in Sublette County. Brucellosis is endemic in the elk herds in Sublette County. Without elk feedgrounds, elk would likely spread the disease to cattle when they commingle with cattle on cattle feedlines, to keep from starving. This bill just puts in place a thoughtful process of review and public comment if the Commission were to recommend closure of an elk feedground, before the Governor makes a final decision.

Today, a bill was brought back from the dead on a reconsideration vote. The bill was [HB0133](#), Online sports wagering, which would regulate and authorize online sports wagering in Wyoming. Currently, you can go online and offshore to wager on sporting events illegally. This bill would regulate that activity, but make certain types of online wagering legal. This would generate money for the State of Wyoming, but could increase gambling addiction in the State. I passed an amendment on 2nd Reading to put \$100,000 from the proceeds towards prevention of gambling addiction. An amendment passed on 3rd Reading to increase the amount to \$300,000 for prevention of gambling addiction to be administered by local prevention specialists in our communities. I voted for this bill, because you can currently gamble online illegally, and I would rather see this industry regulated. I can be reached at albert@albertsommers.com with questions or comments.

Thank you.