

3/18/2021

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne on March 18, 2021. Today in 3rd Reading, the House passed two bills, including [HB0109](#), Local health officers - requirements, which would make advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants eligible to serve as local health officers. This ensures that small counties have more options to fill these important positions. I supported this bill.

The House debated eleven bills in Committee of the Whole, and all but one passed. [HB0132](#), Casper state office building - naming, failed to pass COW. Wyoming is currently erecting a new office building in Casper. A Natrona County contingent felt that the building should be named after John Wold. John Wold was a great man. He was a Wyoming state legislator, a US Congressman, a pioneer in the energy industry in Campbell County, a pioneer in the trona patch in Sweetwater County, and tremendous civic leader. So, why did this bill fail? Well, the job of naming state office buildings belongs to the executive branch of government. In our entire history the Legislature has never named an office building. The Wyoming Building Commission, comprising the Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, is the entity that names state buildings. This commission chose to name the building after Thyra Thomson, also a great leader, whose service to Wyoming is unequalled. She served 24 years as Wyoming's Secretary of State, and was one of the most respected individuals of her time. She was also the first woman to hold the number two position in state government. Both Thomson and Wold contributed greatly to Wyoming, and we value their service and legacies.

[HB0236](#), Firearms transactions - financial discrimination, passed COW today. This bill would prohibit a financial institution from discriminating against a firearm entity due to the firearm entity engaging in the lawful commerce of firearms, firearm accessories or ammunition products. I supported this bill in COW, but there are concerns that this bill violates the Commerce Clause of the US Constitution.

[HB0165](#), Wyoming's Tomorrow scholarship program, diverts \$100 million from the corpus of the Hathaway Scholarship Fund, and creates a scholarship for adults over the age of 24. Unlike

the Hathaway, this new scholarship would be “last money,” meaning that other scholarships, grants, and loans would be counted before a person is considered eligible. HB0165 is designed as a workforce development scholarship, and would serve a real need in Wyoming. I cosponsored the bill because it reaches a population that needs assistance for retraining. HB0165 will not harm the Hathaway, as the Hathaway is spending less than it is earning in investment income.

These and all other 2021 bills are described in detail at

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2021>

I can be reached at albert@albertsommers.com with questions or comments.

Thank you