

3/2/2021

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne on March 2. Wyoming and this nation have gone through a tumultuous time during this pandemic. Today, Governor Gordon and Chief Justice Davis gave the State of State and State of Courts addresses. Both are leaders of their respective arms of state government, and they spoke to the challenges and opportunities that Wyoming is facing and will face in the years ahead.

March 4 will be the last day bills can be numbered and made available for introduction in House. As of tonight, there are 230 House bills or joint resolutions numbered for potential introduction. The type of bills run the gamut, including social issue bills like abortion, gun rights and marijuana legalization. There is a full spectrum of tax bills, including sales tax, property tax, and income tax. There are also bills that amend how public health emergencies would be handled in Wyoming. There are more types of bills than I have space to discuss, but I encourage Sublette County citizens to visit <https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2021> to view the legislation that is before the Legislature.

The House passed only two bills out of Committee of the Whole today. [HB0038](#), Community behavioral health - priority populations, creates a priority list for community mental health providers who rely on State funding. Should Wyoming force community health providers to prioritize certain populations over others, or should the State allow those experts in the communities to make those prioritizations? Should Wyoming focus on the most challenged mental health clients, or does treating patients with the early signs of mental health trauma provide a bigger bang for the buck? I have not decided what my final vote on this bill will be, but I am leaning against the State making those prioritizations and in favor of the judgment of local mental health professionals. [HB0039](#), which is my Optometrist practice act amendments bill, would expand the practice act for optometrists and allow them to do certain non-invasive laser surgeries. Rural Wyoming needs to give these eye care professionals as many tools in their tool box as their education provides for. The bill passed COW, but there was considerable debate about whether optometrists should be given authority to conduct laser surgeries. I can be reached at [albert@albertsommers.com](mailto:albert@albertsommers.com) with questions or comments.