

2/17/2022

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne on February 17. Today, we voted on more bill introductions, debated bills in Committee of the Whole, heard bills on 2nd Reading, and had the final vote on bills in 3rd Reading.

[HB0100](#) - Redistricting of the legislature, was discussed in 2nd Reading today. In our continued discussion of redistricting, further amendments were debated. Amendment 1 would have moved from the 62 house districts/31 senate districts plan back to the current configuration of 60/30. Amendment 1 would have split Sublette County, and I voted against it. This amendment failed. Once again, after 2nd Reading, House District #20 still includes all of Sublette County and the greater LaBarge area. A map showing each of these amendments and the state divisions as a whole can be found under [HB0100](#) by clicking on the earth symbol on the sidebar.

Of the many bills voted on for introduction, four important ones should be noted. One of my bills, [HB0015](#) -Political subdivision club liquor licenses, passed introduction. This bill would allow Sublette County to contract out operations of the bar/grill enterprise on the golf course, without having to transfer Sublette County's liquor license to the contracted operator. HB15 fixes an issue for Sublette County that was created by passage of a bill last session.

Another important bill discussed today was [HJ0003](#) - Runoff elections-constitutional amendment. House Joint Resolution #3 is a constitutional amendment that would allow for run-off elections, by requiring a special session during redistricting years, in order to have voting district lines adjusted in time for an early primary. A run-off election requires time for a primary, then a run-off election, and finally a General Election. This would require Wyoming to hold a primary in May. The schedule for a run-off election causes more problems than it solves, and it costs the state money. Our current elections process has been in place for over 100 years and has served us well. If we need any change, I would consider an open primary that takes the top two or three to the General Election. This type of primary would also avoid the issue of crossover voting, because everyone must decide at the primary whom they will vote for. I did not support HJ3, and it failed introduction.

[HB0092](#) - abortion prohibition-supreme court decision, was also discussed today. This bill would hold that an abortion will not be performed except in the circumstance that the woman is at the risk of death or of substantial and irreversible injury. This bill puts in place Wyoming abortion policy if Roe v. Wade is stricken by the Supreme Court. I voted in favor of this bill and it passed introduction.

Finally, [HB0097](#) - Ban on teaching and training critical race theory, was debated. I voted against this bill, and it failed the introduction vote. I believe [SF0062](#) - civics transparency act, is a better solution. This act requires K12 curriculum be posted for the public to see. This allows parents to see what is being taught and school boards to be accountable to the public. I believe in local control, and not in the State controlling local curriculum. It is a violation of the Wyoming Constitution for the State to set K12 curriculum.

I can be reached at albert@albertsommers.com for questions or concerns.