

Hello Sublette County and LaBarge, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you on January 16, the fifth day of the 2023 General Session of the 67th Legislature.

As a citizen legislature, there is limited time to discuss all the ideas brought forward by legislators. Today, we spent time discussing the rules for this legislative session with the aim of deciding on procedures that will allow us to run a smooth and effective legislative process. The House considered several rule changes today. There has been a great deal of discussion about how large a majority it requires to bring a bill out of the Speaker's desk, or move a bill up on the Majority Floor Leader's bill order for the day.

- [HR001](#)

The proposed changes to the rule would have allowed a simple majority vote to change the order of the bills set by the Majority Floor Leader, except on the day the bills will be heard. It would then require a two-thirds majority to change the order. This amendment also would have established that a simple majority vote is required to pull a bill out of the Speaker's desk. Our legal staff believes this was the existing procedure according to our rules and the Manual of Legislative Procedures. This amendment failed.

- [HR003](#)

This amendment held that moving a bill out of the Speaker's desk or moving a bill up on the Majority Floor Leader's order needs a two-thirds majority vote. This amendment was adopted by the body, in a very split vote, as a compromise to ensure both leaders' decisions were respected. There was a lot of passionate debate about the rights of the majority to overrule decisions. This rule was designed to last just two years, to ensure the rule is redebated in the 68th Legislature. Unspoken power has always resided in these leadership positions, and I am not sure there is any right answer.

- [HR005](#)

This amendment prevented cell phone use on the House floor during the final reading of a bill. It failed.

The House discussed the following bill in Committee of the Whole, which may also be of interest:

- [HB0061 Source material associated with mining – agreement](#)

Aimed at rare earth mineral development in Wyoming, this bill would allow Wyoming to work with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission to gain permitting and licensing authority over rare earth mining operations in the state. Wyoming is home to several rare earth sites considered to be the best in the world and this bill seeks to draw more industry to the state.

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