

Hello Sublette County and LaBarge, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you on January 24, the 10th day of the 2023 General Session of the 67th Legislature. As we head into the third week of the Session, the House continued to hear and vote on bills in the Committee of the Whole, 2nd Reading, and on 3rd reading.

[HB0015 - County authority to dissolve museum boards](#) clarifies that County Commissioners do not have the authority to dissolve archaeological, geological and historical museums under its existing authority. The testimony we heard is when it comes to dissolving museum boards, consideration should be given to the assets museums hold. If the museum board was dissolved, then who would care for the museum's assets? This bill was supported by the County Commissioners Association and it passed the House on 3rd Reading with my support.

[HB0034 - School finance-mental health services](#) was a bill that I worked on during the interim while on the Education Committee. The bill came after hearing testimony of the need in our communities and schools for more mental health resources for students. This bill would fund a grant to school districts available for two years, with up to \$120,000 per district for assistance for mental health resources in their schools. This could be the hiring or contracting of necessary mental health services. Mental health services are an ongoing and growing need in our community. House Bill 34 gives money to assist with this need, then requires grantees give information back on what works and what doesn't, so we can make informed decisions moving forward. I have been told that Pinedale and Big Piney need more mental health services for children. But one challenge seems to be that mental health professionals are hard to find. This bill passed the Committee of the Whole with my support and moves to 2nd reading.

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