

Hello Sublette County and LaBarge, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you on January 26, the 12th day of the 2023 General Session of the 67th Legislature.

Bills continue to move through the House. Today we had 15 bills on 3rd Reading; I will highlight two:

[HB0051 - Legislator constituent service allowance](#). Each legislative member is entitled to a constituent service allowance. It is intended to defray expenses incurred by providing services to and on behalf of one's constituents. This allowance is in addition to attending legislative sessions and interim committee meetings, which is already covered by salary, per diem and mileage. The bill increases the quarterly legislator constituent service allowance from \$750 to \$1,000 per quarter. The last time there was an adjustment to this allowance was in 2002, and the effective date for this increase would be in 2025, after the next election cycle. This bill narrowly passed the House on 3rd Reading with my support.

[HB0134 - Alcohol sales to licensees](#). This bill allows a licensee to purchase one case per week directly from a distiller instead of purchasing through the State Liquor Division. It addresses an efficiency issue and does not require the distiller to ship the product to Cheyenne for it then to be sent back to the licensee. The bill passed the House on 3rd Reading with my support.

We also heard debate on bills in Committee of a Whole. I will highlight [HB0066 - Prohibiting mask, vaccine and testing discrimination](#). This bill would prohibit businesses, medical facilities, and schools from requiring face masks and COVID-19 vaccinations. Much of the discussion centered on the rights of businesses, employees and individuals. There was passionate and respectful debate on both sides of the issue. While I believe the COVID-19 vaccine should not be mandated, I do have some concerns about the mask provision in the bill. During the floor debate, I shared my interpretation that this bill would not allow medical professionals, like a doctor, to require a nurse to wear a mask when in the operating room. This could infringe on the health and rights of the person being operated on. Passing this bill may have unintended

consequences, and the bill needs clarified before I can support it. This bill passed the Committee of the Whole and moved on to 2nd Reading.

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