

Hello Sublette County and LaBarge, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you on January 27, wrapping up the third week of the General Session of the 67th Legislature.

As of Friday afternoon, a total of 453 bills were filed in the House and Senate. A total of 22 bills are no longer moving forward this session, including 11 in the House. Next week, I look forward to the floor debate on [HB0001](#), the budget bill. On Monday, January 30, HB001 will be presented in the Committee of the Whole.

Today, [HB0034](#) was heard and passed on 3rd Reading with 35 aye votes. This bill would fund a one-time grant to school districts for assistance with mental health resources for their students. This bill saw robust debate on each reading. Today we heard and passed an amendment that would not allow grant money to be spent on therapist recommendations for certain procedures. In my opinion, the amendment was simply an effort to kill the bill, and was unnecessary. As I stated at the beginning of the week, mental health services are an ongoing and growing need in our community. This bill gives school districts much-needed help. I strongly supported this bill and was pleased to see it pass the House.

[HB0074 - Wyoming outdoor recreation trust fund](#) also passed the House on 3rd Reading. Two amendments today concerned at what level to fund the trust, but both amendments failed. Funding will be placed into the trust over time until the total corpus hits \$50 million. The trust fund model of funding is a forward-thinking way to continue to support the good work for outdoor recreation projects in Wyoming. I supported this bill.

[HB30 Wyoming's tomorrow scholarship program](#) passed the Committee of the Whole today. This endowment fund program was established during the 66th Legislature to provide scholarships for nontraditional students. The concept is widely supported by industries in Wyoming, as the bill promotes workforce development. We heard testimony on the floor that this bill is already working and assisting with training, especially in parts of the State that have mining industries. This bill updates some of the market value calculations and modifies the transfer of funds. I believe the Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship could be transformational for

workforce development, by helping adults move to other careers or move up the ladder. I support this bill.

I can be reached at [albert@albertsommers.com](mailto:albert@albertsommers.com) with questions or comments. Thank you.