

News Release



WYOMING SENATE DISTRICT 3

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ELECTION INTEGRITY, WATER CONSTRUCTION BILLS MOVE ACROSS SENATE FLOOR

LINGLE – Protecting the rights of Wyoming residents remains at the forefront of Senator Cheri Steinmetz’s mind as the 2022 Budget Session continues in Cheyenne. Senator Steinmetz reported on a busy week Friday, as legislators heard several bills for introduction.

Due to the Budget Session, bills must pass an introductory vote of two-thirds of the Senate vote.

“We heard three election integrity bills that passed introduction: Senate File 79 Prohibition of Private Funds in Conducting Elections - this bill is a part of the Election Integrity Initiative being conducted by the Secretary of State’s office,” Senator Steinmetz explained. “This makes sure that private funds do not influence Wyoming elections. Senate File 96 Collection of Ballots Prohibition - this prohibits ballot harvesting in the State of Wyoming. Senate File 97 Change of Party Affiliation - this ensures election integrity in the primary by limiting the time when a person can change their party affiliation, so that we have a true primary election for each party.”

Senate File 103 Education on Limiting Teaching of Critical Race Theory also passed introduction. In addition, the Senate heard Senate File 66 American Rescue Plan Act Recovery Funds Appropriations.

“This bill contains approximately \$335 million of federal money,” Senator Steinmetz said. “We also saw Senate File 89 Child Protection - Dangerous Drugs, which is a bill that allows the crime of child abuse for a person who intentionally or recklessly exposes an unborn child to a controlled substance. This is something that our local folks - our chief of police and our county attorney - have helped us with, and we really appreciate their help and hope that bill will become law.”

Earlier this week, lawmakers heard Senate File 82 Supplemental Water Development Funding.

“It headed to the Ag Committee last night,” Senator Steinmetz said. “This is a really important bill for Goshen County because it contains \$21.8 million for (Goshen Irrigation District) for the rehabilitation of Tunnel 1 and 2. It also contains \$30 million for LaPrele Dam near Douglas - that is a failing dam that will flood I-25 if not repaired. The bill includes \$30 million for LaPrele and funds \$25 million for storage in Fontenelle Reservoir to help with the Colorado River depletion from the drought. This bill totals about \$80 million in supplemental water funding.

“The Senate also forwarded Omnibus Water Construction Bill - that is always a good bill - a staple of the legislature that contains all of the water construction projects across the state,” Senator Steinmetz said. “Both bills were up in Senate Ag and passed.”

This year, Senator Steinmetz is also co-sponsoring Senate File 102 The Second Amendment Protection Act.

“This bill is supported by the Gun Owners of America and local law enforcement all across the State of Wyoming,” Senator Steinmetz said. “We should be supporting our local law enforcement officers working together for the goal of standing up to the federal government. We should not be enforcing federal gun regulation that comes out of Washington, D.C. that infringes on our right to keep and bear arms.

“Wyoming has a Republican Legislature,” Senator Steinmetz continued. “We stand with our police chiefs and our sheriffs and our local law enforcement. That has to be the way we approach this issue in Wyoming.”

Next week the Legislature will begin work on the budget. It will take most of the week and be completed by Friday.

Residents can find more information about the legislature, track bills, or watch the session live at wyoleg.gov.

About Senator Cheri Steinmetz:

Senator Steinmetz represents Goshen, Niobrara, and Weston counties. She is a member of the Appropriations Committee and previously served on the following Senate committees: Agriculture, State and Public Lands & Water Resources; Transportation, Highways, & Military Affairs; and the Select Committee on Legislative Facilities, Technology and Process. She began serving in the Wyoming State Senate in 2019. Previously, Senator Steinmetz represented House District 5 from 2015 to 2018. More information may be found at wyoleg.gov.

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