

News Release



WYOMING SENATE DISTRICT 3

FOR RELEASE Immediately

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LEGISLATURE CONVENES

CHEYENNE – The 67th Wyoming Legislature convened on January 10th to begin the General session slated to end in March. Many weighty issues face the State of Wyoming. Individual and Committee bills addressing issues ranging from property tax relief, school choice, budget transparency, and respect for the life of the unborn are being filed and scheduled for debate in the Standing Committees.

Senator Steinmetz began the week with the Ag Committee being one of the first Committees to take up senate files. The Committee passed out files relating to partition fences around subdivisions, brucellosis updates and slow-moving vehicle amendments.

“As Wyoming sees an increase in population, the legislature will grapple with the issues caused by growth and the change in land use. Subdivisions not only affect land, but many times fences, rights of way and water rights depending on the location,” Senator Steinmetz said.

Currently Senator Steinmetz has sponsored the following senate files with more to come:
SF0103 Sales tax exemption-state legislators which allows state legislators on official business to be exempt from lodging tax. This file is designed to offset the need to increase legislative per diem in response to the increase in lodging tax.

SF0104 Property tax-mill levy adjustment which caps the property tax mill levy for counties, cities and school districts at the rate of the previous year plus inflation.

SF0105 Utilities-point of consumption and allocation agreements is a senate file designed to protect certificated service areas for public utilities and provide for a cooperative agreement process in order to keep rates stable and service reliable.

“I am pleased with my assignments to the Ag and Education Committees. I am honored to follow in the footsteps of the late Representative Jim Hageman who had the same committee assignments and served on them for over 24 years. “

Senator Cheri Steinmetz serves as Chairman of the Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources Committee and Vice Chairman of the Education Committee. Contact Information: (307)534-5342; e-mail: cheri.steinmetz@wyoleg.gov

Representative Slagle began Committee meetings Thursday with two bills dealing with state lands. The first was **HB0016 State land leasing-improvements**; the second was **HB0017 State lands-grazing of non-owned livestock**. On both bills, the committee made some minor amendments to clean them up and make the statutes more precise. There are several more state land bills coming, as well as the Omnibus Water bill with projects all over the state, including Goshen ID Tunnel Rehabilitation.

Currently, Representative Slagle has sponsored the following house bill with more to come: **HB0106 Eminent domain-wind energy collector systems**, which reimposes a moratorium on the exercise of the power of condemnation for wind energy collector systems for a period of time to protect private property rights.

Representative Allen Slagle serves on the Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources Committee. Contact information: (307)306-7384; e-mail: allen.slagle@wyoleg.gov

According to Representative Smith, the Wyoming House has an important vote on Monday, January 16 to vote on the rules that will govern the body for the next two years.

“Most of the changes are minor, but there are a couple of amendments that could have adverse effects on the procedures of the House,” Representative Smith said. “Please tune into the Legislature’s website or channel on YouTube to follow along with what is going on.”

Representative Smith is currently serving on the Committee for Transportation, Highways, and Military Affairs.

“We have heard two different bills, and they both passed out of committee, and we should expect to have it before the body,” Representative Smith said. “First, was recognizing ‘Space Force’ as a branch of the military and allowing the National Guard to honor Space Force to all of their policies as they do for all of the other branches of our military. Secondly, we took public comment about making it easier for veterans to get a ‘Veterans’ designation on their driver’s license. This also passed committee and will go before the body.”

Representative Smith recommends everyone become involved in the legislative process.

“Come down to the capitol and sit in and watch a committee meeting, testify before the committee about issues that are important to you. We need the people’s input.”

So far there are over 140 bills on the House at the moment. Check them out here: <https://wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2023>

Representative Scott Smith serves on the Transportation, Highways, and Military Affairs Committee. Contact Information: (307)575-3742; e-mail: Scott.Smith@wyoleg.gov

More information about the legislative session can be found at wyoleg.gov.

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