



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Senator Cheri Steinmetz

cheri.steinmetz@wyoleg.gov

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An Update on 65th General Session of the Wyoming State Legislature from Senator Cheri Steinmetz

Cheyenne, Wyo. – The 65th General Session of the Wyoming Legislature is in the midst of its 7th week. Wednesday, February 20th was the last day for bills to be considered by committees in the 2nd Chamber and February 21st is the last day for bills to be considered by the Committees of the Whole in the 2nd Chamber.

Senator Steinmetz has been working diligently to make House Bills better while they are being considered by the Senate. Of note is [House Bill 134 - Livestock brands-amendments](#). This bill, sponsored by House Speaker Pro Tempore Albert Sommers, updates Livestock Brand regulations. Senator Steinmetz offered an amendment to include permanent brands and tightened up language to allow for payment of delinquent brands at inspection, extend the time of delinquency to two years and allow for the proration of brands.

“Livestock brands are a property right fundamental to our Agricultural industry and families,” said Senator Steinmetz. “While our brand statutes need to be updated with technological developments, we must do everything we can to protect brands and allow every opportunity to maintain family brands that often reach back generations.”

Additionally, the 65th General Session saw passage of the Joint Conference Committee Report on [House Bill 1 – General Government Appropriations](#). The Conference Committee, made up of Joint Appropriations Committee members, settled on a supplemental budget that impacts approximately 1% of state appropriations.

“I continue to have major reservations with the amount of money being spent in the supplemental budget,” said Senator Steinmetz. “Given the budget shortfalls we continue to see annually and a looming crisis in K-12 education, I could not, in good conscience, vote for increased government spending. While the supplemental budget may be far less in relation to the rest, it does nothing in relation to the biennial budget, much of the spending will continue in agency standard budgets.”

Sponsored bills:

As of Thursday morning, [Senate File 40, Operation of motorboat](#) has passed second reading in the House and Senate File 99, Voting systems and ballots will be accelerated from second reading to 3rd reading in order to help balance the House Flood Schedule. [Senate File 41, County fair endowment](#), has passed both Chambers and awaits Governor Gordon’s signature.

“Bills I have sponsored continue to progress through the House,” said Senator Steinmetz. “I am grateful my House colleagues have seen it worthwhile to consider these important topics. I am confident SF 40 and SF 99 will reach the Governor’s desk.”

About Senator Steinmetz:

Senator Cheri Steinmetz (R-Lingle) was sworn in to serve Senate District 03 in January of 2019. Previously, she served in the Wyoming House, representing House District 05 from 2015 to 2019. She currently serves on the Senate Agriculture, State and Public Lands & Water Resources Committee and the Senate Transportation, Highways & Military Affairs Committee.

Citizens interested in following the work of the Wyoming State Legislature can listen online, track bills and contact their legislators at www.wyoleg.gov.

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