

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

The Second Regular Session of the 59th Legislature began with nearly 3,100 bills filed this year with a large percentage of those considered to be of significant interest to municipal governments. There were proposals to remove the state's portion of sales tax on groceries, numerous proposals on guns and grass aka medical marijuana, preemption measures, and tax policy.

The OML Legislative Committee and Board of Directors were very engaged in crafting Legislation dealing with municipal audits, Court Clerks and Service Oklahoma and the municipal court process.

Here are the wins that OML achieved:

Municipal Audits: [HB 2362](#) by Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) and Sen. Jessica Garvin (R-Duncan) directs the governing body of each municipality with a population of less than 2,500 that requests the biennial agreed-upon-procedures engagement to determine the establishment of policies related to adjustments, write-downs, or write-offs for various receivables due to the municipality and/or the utility-related trust and select a sample of adjustments to test for adherence to policies and for appropriate supporting documentation; obtain two (2) months of bank statements of the General Fund and Utility Fund and confirm that cash deposits were made in the appropriate account(s) and verify utility billing receipts or posting reports agree to the daily deposits. The governing body shall agree upon a pay rate to be authorized and documented in the personnel file or in approved meeting minutes for the city manager/town administrator, city/town clerk, city/town treasurer and payroll clerk. If any employee received compensation over and above his or her authorized salary or hourly rate, the payroll clerk, upon request, shall provide appropriate documentation of authorization for such pay. The requirements shall not include expense reimbursements but shall include any allowances considered taxable. Public trusts with municipal governments as the beneficiary that meet the same financial requirements established in subsection B, may in alternative to obtaining an audit, follow the biennial agreed-upon-procedures engagements as outlined in subsection D of this section.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Courts/Notification/Time Limits: [HB 3885](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) increases the time limitation from one hundred twenty days (120) to one (1) year for the municipal or district court to notify Service Oklahoma from the date the citation was issued by the arresting officer.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Medical Marijuana/Certificate of Occupancy: [SB 1635](#) by Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) and Rep. T.J. Marti (R-Broken Arrow) requires any marijuana-licensed premises, medical marijuana business or any other premises licensed to grow, process, store or manufacture marijuana to submit with its application or request to change location, a certificate of occupancy from the political subdivision or State Fire Marshal. If the political subdivision does not have an authority having a jurisdiction agreement on file with the State Fire Marshal's office, the State Fire Marshal shall certify compliance with all applicable codes. Once a certificate of occupancy has been

submitted to OMMA, the licensee shall only need to submit an affidavit for renewal stating the premises continues to comply with zoning classifications, municipal ordinances, and all applicable safety, electrical, fire, plumbing, waste, construction, and building specification codes. If there is a change of use or occupancy, an additional certificate of occupancy along with an affidavit shall be submitted. Municipalities or the State Fire Marshal may implement an inspection program to verify compliance. If an application for renewal is submitted in violation, OMMA shall suspend operations of licensees' premises until compliance is reestablished. All existing medical marijuana business licensees that do not possess a valid certificate of occupancy, where required, shall be subject to revocation until such time as a valid certificate of occupancy is obtained for all applicable structures. This provision shall not apply to medical marijuana business licensees who submitted a full and complete application for a valid certificate of occupancy to the State Fire Marshal or political subdivision with an authority having jurisdiction agreement on file with the State Fire Marshal before November 1, 2023, and while the same application remains under review by the State Fire Marshal or political subdivision. Medical marijuana business licensees are responsible for compliance with applicable state fire, building, and electrical codes and may be liable for all damage that results from noncompliance with state fire, building, and electrical codes to the extent authorized by law. The bill also requires licensed medical marijuana testing laboratories to test samples from each final product harvest batch or final production batch, prohibiting licensed commercial growers or processors from transferring any product to a dispensary until final product testing is complete.

The bill goes into effect on June 14, 2024.

BILLS SUCCESSFULLY STOPPED

OML continues to be recognized at the State Capitol as the unified voice of Oklahoma municipal governments in shaping policy and safeguarding local control. Throughout this Session, there were numerous bills filed attempting to preempt local control and hinder municipal governments including sales tax exemptions, zoning preemptions, changes to the tax increment financing process, and limiting election dates. OML opposed ninety (90) bills and nearly all of those we actively opposed were halted in the legislative process. Here are a few that were successfully stopped:

Municipal Zoning & Planning: [HB 1599](#) by Rep. Jon Echols (R-OKC) and Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) established that municipal zoning decisions are legislative in nature and valid unless the challenging party proves the ordinance lacks a substantial relation to the public health, safety, or general welfare of the public light of objective and relevant facts, or if the decision constitutes an unreasonable, arbitrary exercise of police power. If the validity of a challenged zoning ordinance or zoning decision is fairly debatable, in light of objective and relevant facts, the legislative judgment of the municipality must stand. Comprehensive plans may be utilized as a guide in the decision-making process; however, determinations must be made in light of objective and relevant facts outlined in the municipal code. The bill also establishes that municipal platting decisions are quasi-judicial in nature. The respective Planning Commission and City Council of a municipality shall have reasonable discretion to determine the compliance of preliminary and final plats with the municipality's adopted subdivision regulations and all applicable codes and ordinances. If the Council and Planning Commission determines the proposed plat is in compliance with the adopted subdivision code, and meets all applicable ordinances, both accept any proposed dedications, the plat shall be approved. In the case of a preliminary or final plat denial, the City Attorney is required to identify their basis for denial. Comprehensive plans are allowed to be used as a guide when making zoning or plat decisions, but decisions are required to be based on objective and relevant facts and the municipal code.

The bill passed the House but was not heard in the Senate.

Eminent Domain: [HB 2191](#) by Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) prohibited the taking of private property or damaged by a condemning authority unless the taking or damage is necessary for public use and with just compensation. The public purpose or public benefit of economic development, including an increase in tax base, tax revenues, employment, or general economic health, does not constitute a public use. Nothing in subsection A shall be construed to prohibit the taking of private property for public use because public use also provides ancillary economic benefits. The court shall strictly construe eminent domain statutes in favor of the property owner and against the condemning authority. A governmental body subordinate to the state may not exercise, create, extend, or expand the power of eminent domain in the absence of statutory authority. Additional procedures, remedies, or limitations that do not deny or diminish the substantive and procedural rights and protections of property owners under this section may be provided by other law, ordinance, or charter.

The bill passed the House but was not heard in the Senate.

Open Records Act/Public Access Counselor/AG's Office: [HB 2287](#) by Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) and Sen. Greg McCortney (R-Ada) created in the Attorney General's office a Public Access Counselor Unit. Any person whose request to inspect or copy a public record is denied by a public body, except the Legislature and committees, commissions, and agencies thereof, may file a request for review with the Public Access Counselor not later than thirty (30) days after the date of the final denial.

The bill died in Conference Committee.

Open Records Requests: [HB 2730](#) by Rep. Annie Menz (D-Norman) and Sen. Julia Kirt (D-OKC) provided that if a records request cannot be completed within ten (10) business days of the request, a person shall provide written notice to the requestor indicating the reason for the delay and specifying a date within a reasonable time when the information requested will be available for inspection or duplication.

The bill was not heard on the Senate floor.

Preemption/Manufactured Homes: [HB 3578](#) by Rep. Daniel Pae (R-Lawton) prohibited municipalities from establishing or continuing in effect any ordinance or regulation that sets standards for manufactured home construction or safety that are not identical to the federal and state standards. Municipalities that have zoning ordinances shall allow the placement of manufactured homes on individually owned lots in at least one or more residential districts or zones within the municipality. Municipalities may establish reasonable regulations or conditions for the placement of manufactured homes within the jurisdiction. However, municipalities shall not impose regulations or conditions on manufactured homes that prohibit the placement of manufactured homes or that are inconsistent with the regulations or conditions imposed on other single-family dwellings permitted in the same residential district or zone. Municipalities may prohibit the placement of mobile homes in all residential districts or zones or may restrict the placement of mobile homes to designated mobile home parks, subdivisions, or land lease communities. This act shall not supersede, prevent, or preempt any valid covenants. It also does not require that manufactured homes be permitted in historic districts.

The bill did not receive a hearing in the House County & Municipal Government Committee.

Law Enforcement/Criminal Subpoenas: [HB 3777](#) by Rep. Collin Duel (R-Guthrie) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) established requirements for the issuance of criminal subpoenas issued on behalf of or by a criminal defendant to a law enforcement agency.

The conference committee report was not heard on the House floor.

County Assessors/Municipal Building Permits: [HB 3941](#) by Rep. Melissa Provenzano (D-Tulsa) and Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Wilson) required cities and towns to transmit a copy of any building permit issued within its boundaries to the county assessor no later than thirty (30) days after the date of issuance. Cities and towns should provide the county assessor with electronic copies of building permits, where available and feasible.

The bill passed the House but did not receive a hearing in the Senate General Government Committee.

Rural County Economic Development Organization of 2024: [HB 4070](#) [SB 1807](#) by Rep. Nick Archer (R-Elk City) and Sen. Jessica Garvin (R-Duncan) created the Rural County Economic Development Organization of 2024. It provides the process and parameters of the Organization. Any county, with a population of one hundred thousand (100,000) or less pursuant to the last preceding Federal Decennial Census of this state, may levy a sales tax not to exceed seventy-five hundredths' percent (.75%) upon the gross proceeds or gross receipts derived from all sales or services in the county upon which a consumer's sales tax is levied. Before the sales tax may be levied by the county, the imposition of the tax shall first be approved by a majority of the registered voters of the county voting thereon at a special election called by the county commissioners. Each county commissioner of a county with a county economic development organization shall appoint from the county two (2) persons to serve as members of the county economic development organization. Each organization member shall serve at the pleasure of his or her appointing county commissioner.

HB 4070 and SB 1807 both passed the Senate General Government Committee but were not heard on the Senate floor.

Municipal Bond Elections: [SB 1682](#) by Sen. Nathan Dahm (R-Broken Arrow) authorized a municipal governing body the ability to submit a question of issuing municipal bonds or of any tax, by resolution ordinance, authorize the mayor to call a special election on a state or federal election day in November in an odd or even-numbered year. The bill also allows school boards to call an election to be held on a state or federal election day in November in an odd or even-numbered year for issuing bonds.

The bill did not receive a hearing in the Senate General Government Committee.

Election Dates: [SB 1728](#) by Sen. Nathan Dahm (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Jim Olsen (R-Roland) changed when a regular or special election can be called to including the following dates: 1) the second Tuesday of March in any year other than a presidential election year; 2) the date of the Presidential Preferential Primary election in presidential election year as set forth in Section 20-101 of Title 26; the second Tuesday of June and the second Tuesday of August in an odd-numbered year. Any school district, technology center district, municipality, including any municipality governed by charter, rural fire protection district or any other entity seeking to hold a special election for the purpose of filling a vacancy shall schedule a candidate filing period of three (3) days twenty (20) days following the date on a Monday not sooner than five (5) days from the date the resolution is filed with the secretary of the county election board but not later than the second Monday following the statutory deadline for filing the resolution calling the election is required to be filed with the secretary of the county election board.

The bill passed the Senate General Government Committee, but was not heard on the Senate floor.

Local Development Act/Counties: [SB 1863](#) by Sen. Jack Stewart (R-Yukon) expanded the areas in which a county can create a Local Development District.

The bill was doubly assigned. It passed the Senate General Government Committee and the Senate Finance Committee but was not heard on the Senate floor.

Unauthorized Camps/Municipal Water and Sewer Systems: [SB 1928](#) by Sen. Rob Standridge (R-Norman) required a municipality who has fourteen (14) days following a report to conduct an investigation of an unauthorized camps that have water run-off entering a municipal sewer system, drainage system, or drinking water reservoir. The inspection shall determine whether the camp is up to building codes established by OUBCC. If the camp does not meet applicable building codes fourteen (14) days after notice was provided, the municipality shall remove any structure or accumulated property at the unauthorized camp. Any removed property shall be available for claim by affected persons ten (10) days after removal. Any property left shall be disposed of after ten (10) days have elapsed. Any municipality that fails to inspect an unauthorized camp shall be held liable for any waterborne contamination or disease that results from the presence of an unauthorized camp. Determination that a waterborne contamination or disease originated from the presence of an unauthorized camp shall be made by a court of law. Any person affected by any waterborne contamination or disease determined to result from the presence of an unauthorized camp shall be awarded up to Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) from the municipality.

The bill did not receive a hearing in the Senate General Government Committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF BILLS

There are five ways that a bill can go into effect:

- If the measure has *only* an emergency clause, it will go into effect on the Governor's signature.
- However, if a bill has an effective date, the new law will go into effect on the date declared in the bill.
- If there is no effective date or emergency clause included, the law automatically becomes effective 90 days after Sine Die adjournment. In 2024, that date is August 28.
- If the bill has an effective date *and* an emergency clause (as do most appropriation measures) it will go into effect on the effective date.
- If the bill says, "not codified," these sections of law do not require permanent inclusion in state statutes, such as appropriations sections or matters of a limited-time nature.

HOUSE BILLS OF MUNICIPAL INTEREST SIGNED INTO LAW

Sales Tax Exemption/Commercial Digital Asset Mining: [HB 1600](#) by Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) and Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) adds a new sales tax exemption for sales of machinery and equipment used for commercial mining of digital assets. Beginning on the effective date of this act and ending on December 31, 2029, the exemption applies to the sales of machinery and equipment, including but not limited to, servers, computers, racks, power distribution units, cabling, switchgears, transformers, substations, software, network equipment, and electricity used for commercial mining of digital assets purposes in a colocation facility.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Oklahoma Sentencing Modernization Act of 2024: [HB 1792](#) by Rep. Mike Osburn (R-Edmond) and Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) creates the Oklahoma Sentencing Modernization Act of 2024. The bill establishes a classification for all felony criminal offenses provided for in the Oklahoma Statutes and sets forth maximum fines for each classification.

The bill goes into effect on January 1, 2026.

Tuition/Children of Peace Officers, Firefighters & EMTs who Died in the Line of Duty: [HB 1795](#) by Rep. Mike Osburn (R-Edmond) and Sen. Kristen Thompson (R-Edmond) prohibits the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education from charging fees, room and board to children of Oklahoma peace officers, firefighters, commissioned members of OLEERS, and emergency medical technicians who have given their lives in the line of duty. Such waiver of room and board shall be limited to a period of five (5) years.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

OPERS/Emergency Medical Personnel: [HB 1805](#) by Rep. Neil Hays (R-Checotah) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) designates licensed emergency medical personnel hired on or after the effective date of this act, as hazardous duty members of the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). Qualifying emergency medical personnel includes emergency medical responders, technicians and paramedics working for a participating OPERS employer. Hazardous duty members of OPERS receive increased retirement and pension benefits compared to non-hazardous duty employees and are subject to the following contribution and benefit structure: the employee contribution rate is eight percent (8%) and the employer contribution rate is sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%); members are eligible to receive full, unreduced retirement benefits after twenty (20) years of service; and benefits are calculated using a two and one-half percent (2.5%) per year multiplier for the first twenty (20) years of service and two percent (2%) per year multiplier for service in excess of twenty (20) years. Compensation does not include payment for overtime, compensation, or reimbursement for traveling, moving expenses, or any compensation in excess of the maximum compensation level.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Grocery Sales Tax Exemption: [HB 1955](#) by Speaker Charles McCall (R-Atoka) and Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) requires on or after the effective date of this act, an excise tax to be zero percent (0%) imposed upon all retail sales of food and food ingredients sold for human consumption off the premises where sold. Any sales tax or excise levied by a city, town, county, or any other jurisdiction in this state upon sales of food and food ingredients shall be in effect regardless of ordinance or contractual provisions referring to previously imposed state sales tax on the items. On or after the effective date of this act, until June 30, 2025, a county or a municipality that submits the question of a sales tax or excise tax to its voters shall provide that the increased rate does not apply to "food and food ingredients" as term is defined in Section 1352 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes. OTC must promulgate any necessary rules to implement the provisions of this section in accordance with the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement. (The moratorium on new sales tax elections was eliminated in [SB 1283](#). See Page 32 for more details.)

The bill goes into effect August 28, 2024.

County Sales Tax/Emergency Medical Services: [HB 1967](#) by Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) and Sen. Darcy Jech (R-Kingfisher) authorizes any county to levy a sales tax not to exceed one percent (1%) upon the gross proceeds or gross receipts derived from all sales or services in the county upon which a consumer's sales tax is levied. The proceeds will be used solely for the purpose of emergency medical services. Before the sales tax may be levied by the county, the imposition of the tax shall first be approved by a majority of the registered voters of the county at a special election called by resolution of the board of county commissioners.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Water & Water Rights/Water Usage: [HB 2197](#) by Rep. Dick Lowe (R-Amber) and Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) authorizes a provisional temporary permit to be issued three (3) times for the oil and gas industry except in a sole source aquifer. The bill also requires permit holders to report their annual water use to OWRB in a manner provided by the Board. The water use report shall provide the permit holder with an opportunity to explain any nonuse of the water allocated by the permit. In addition to the procedure for individual proceedings, OWRB is authorized to promulgate rules for reporting stream water used and the approval of excused nonuse of stream water. Failure to report annual water usage may result in cancellation of the permit by OWRB upon proper notice and hearing. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Executive Director of OWRB may issue administrative orders requiring the immediate cessation of water use when Board staff has a reasonable belief the use is unauthorized or continued use will damage rights of prior appropriators. Such administrative orders shall indicate the finding of imminent peril and shall specify the actions that are to be taken immediately. In addition, the orders shall specify a time and place for a hearing to be held after such actions are taken.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

9-1-1 Management Authority/Repealer: [HB 2426](#) by Rep. Stan May (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) repeals Sections 2869.1 and 2869.2 of Title 63.

The bill went into effect on May 28, 2024.

Retirement/OLERS: [HB 2687](#) by Rep. John George (R-Newalla) and Sen. Dewayne Pemberton (R-Muskogee) authorizes members of OPERS who are active commissioned or CLEET certified agents of the AG and Oklahoma Military Department on June 30, 2024, may make an irrevocable written election to participate in OLERS.

The bill went into effect on June 5, 2024.

Ambulances/Out-of-Network Ambulance Provider Act: [HB 2872](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) establishes the minimum allowable reimbursement rate under any health care benefit plan issued by a health care insurer to an out-of-network ambulance service provider for providing covered ambulance services shall be at a rate set or approved, whether in contract or ordinance, by a local governmental entity in the jurisdiction in which the covered ambulance services originate. In the absence of the rates provided in subsection A, the rate shall be the lesser of three hundred twenty-five percent (325%) of the current published rate for ambulance services as established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act for the same services provided in the same geographic area; or the ambulance service provider's billed charges. Payment in compliance with this section shall be considered payment in full for the covered ambulance services provided, except for any copayment, coinsurance, deductible, and other cost-sharing feature amounts required to be paid by the enrollee. An ambulance service provider is prohibited from billing the enrollee for any additional amounts for the paid covered services in excess of what the healthcare insurer pays. In administering and paying claims, a health care insurer shall comply with Section 1219 of Title 36. The bill also modifies the definition of health care benefit plans to include government sponsored self-insured plans.

The bill goes into effect on January 1, 2025.

DEQ/Appropriation: [HB 2889](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Lawton) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) and Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) appropriates from the Progressing Rural Economic Prosperity Fund Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00) to construct needed water system improvements for a water system located west of State Highway 94 and east of State Highway 95.

The bill went into effect on July 1, 2024

DEQ/Appropriation: [HB 2890](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Lawton) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) and Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) appropriates from the Progressing Rural Economic Prosperity Fund Fifty Million Dollars (\$50,000,000.00) to construct needed modifications and upgrades to the levees along the Arkansas River and several feeder waterways located in Northeast Oklahoma.

The bill went into effect on July 1, 2024.

State Assistance Dedicated for Disaster-impacted Local Economies Revolving Fund: [HB 2912](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) creates a revolving fund for the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management to be designated the "State Assistance Dedicated for Disaster-impacted Local Economies Revolving Fund." The purpose of the fund is

to provide advanced financial liquidity to governmental subdivisions directly impacted by events attributing to a FEMA declared emergency or disaster, provided such governmental subdivision has entered into a qualifying repayment agreement with Dept. of Emergency Management. The bill defines "advanced financial liquidity" to mean funding provided to fund gaps in mitigation of local and county revenue losses and operating deficits; infrastructure repair and replacement; temporary housing and shelter; and to fund gaps in required matching funds for participation in, or the benefit of programs administered or funded by FEMA. The bill also defines "qualifying repayment agreement" to mean a memorandum of understanding or legally binding agreement which identifies the purpose of use for such advanced financial liquidity, and which identifies the source or repayment a repayment timeline or standard for repayment by the governmental subdivision. The Department of Emergency Management is authorized to promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this bill.

The bill went into effect on May 17, 2024.

Emergency Management/Appropriations: [HB 2913](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) appropriates Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000.00) to the State Emergency Fund. The bill also appropriates Thirty Million Dollars (\$30,000,000.00) to the State Assistance Dedicated for Disaster-impacted Local Economies Revolving Fund created in Enrolled HB 2912.

The bill went into effect on May 17, 2024.

OWRB/Rural Water Infrastructure Projects: [HB 2937](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Lawton) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) and Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) appropriates to the Pandemic Relief Primary Source Revolving Fund the sum of Fifty Million Dollars (\$50,000,000.00); Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) to the Pandemic Relief Primary Source Revolving Fund; and Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) to OWRB to establish a grant program to match tribal investment in rural water infrastructure projects. OWRB is authorized to perform administrative tasks such as entering into contracts, promulgate rules and enter into MOUs to implement the grant program.

The bill went into effect on July 1, 2024.

Firefighters Pension & Retirement System: [HB 2991](#) by Rep. Josh West (R-Grove) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) amends the Firefighters Pension & Retirement System to conform with the IRS Code.

The bill went into effect on April 26, 2024.

Law Enforcement/DUI: [HB 3000](#) by Rep. Rande Worthen (R-Lawton) and Sen. Tom Woods (R-Westville) creates the Impaired Driving Prevention Advisory Committee (IDAP) with one of the members being the President of the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police. The Committee is authorized to collect, analyze, and interpret relevant crash data on impaired driving and associated traffic crashes. In addition, the Committee is authorized to review, evaluate, and monitor the impaired driving system of this state and provide a network of communication and cooperation among the various stakeholders to coordinate and integrate efforts and resources to reduce the incidence and severity of impaired driving crashes. The Committee must annually

complete a statewide strategic plan to reduce the incidents of impaired driving and impaired driving crashes. The plan shall be submitted to the Governor, Speaker, and President Pro Tempore. Members of the Committee who are employed by a state agency or political subdivision must serve without additional compensation but are entitled to receive reimbursement in accordance with the State Travel and Reimbursement Act. The bill removes a requirement that the period of revocation and the Impaired Driver Accountability Program run concurrently. It also requires that pulmonologist certify medical exemptions from ignition interlock requirements. The Board of Tests for Alcohol and Drug Influence is authorized to promulgate rules necessary to regulate ignition interlock devices and the providers of such devices and to charge appropriate fees for operations incidental to its duties. No licensed interlock provider utilizing a lease, clause, or contractual agreement that authorizes the provider impound, physically immobilize, or seize a vehicle may be licensed by the Board. The Board is authorized to prescribe and approve the requisite education and training for the performance of ignition interlock services and establish qualifications for individuals who provide ignition interlock services. The bill directs that the driving record of a person subject to revocation who enrolls in IDAP is to be updated to indicate completion of IDAP without revocation under certain conditions.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Ambulance Districts/Motor Fuel Tax Exemption: [HB 3031](#) by Rep. Cody Maynard (R-Durant) and Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) exempts Oklahoma ambulance districts established under Section 9C of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution from motor fuel taxes.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Energy/Southwest Power Pool: [HB 3053](#) by Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) and Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) requires the Corporation Commission to coordinate with the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) to develop and provide a reporting of the regulatory and statutory frameworks addressing the rule of the SPP as it pertains to this state. The report shall provide a comprehensive assessment of the impact of the SPP on the state's electricity infrastructure and areas in which the state may desire further evaluation. The Commission shall ensure the completion of the report no later than December 31, 2024. A copy of the report shall be submitted electronically to the following: the Governor, Speaker, Pro Tempore, Chair of the House Utilities Committee of the House or successor committee, and the Chair of the Senate Energy & Telecommunications Committee or successor committee.

The bill went into effect on May 10, 2024.

Elections/Ranked Choice Voting: [HB 3156](#) by Rep. Eric Roberts (R-OKC) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) prohibits an election conducted by the State Election Board, a county election board, or any municipality authorized to conduct elections in Oklahoma from using ranked choice voting, ranked voting, proportional ranked voting, preferential voting, or instant runoff voting. An existing or future ordinance enacted or adopted by a county, municipality, or any other local government entity which is in conflict with this section is void. The Secretary of the State Election Board, or Pro Tempore and the Speaker jointly, has the authority to bring a civil action in an appropriate court for such declaratory or injunctive relief.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Eminent Domain/Right of First Refusal: [HB 3159](#) by Rep. Eric Roberts (R-OKC) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) provides for the first refusal or right of first refusal offer if the acquired land is ever sold by the state or any state agency thereof or any person who acquired the land through the use of eminent domain authority. If the landowner chooses to exercise this right, the price would be the lower of either the current market value or the price received by the landowner under the eminent domain sale. This right shall be available to the landowner in the original eminent domain sale and to the first generation of heirs. However, acquired land may be transferred to another state agency without prompting the first refusal or right of first refusal.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

State Fire Marshals/Grills & Griddles: [HB 3169](#) by Rep. Dell Kerbs (R-Shawnee) and Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) requires the State Fire Marshal Commission to promulgate rules allowing the use and storage of propane-fueled grills and flattop griddles and electric wood pellet grills on boat docks; provided, that the act of using such cooking instruments is performed within ten (10) feet of a fire extinguisher. The fire extinguisher shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the most current version of NFPA 10 (Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers). Any violations or penalties shall be assessed to the person committing acts contrary to this subsection. The owner or operator of the marina or dock shall not be held liable for the actions of its tenants or others.

The bill went into effect on May 6, 2024.

OTC/Sales Tax Permits: [HB 3346](#) by Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) and Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) allows monies in the OTC and OMES Joint Computer Enhancement Fund to make payments for Information Technology acquisitions to support the responsibilities of OTC. Whenever the sales tax reports required to be filed by Section 1365 of this title indicate there is no business activity at a place of business for a period of twelve (12) months, OTC, after giving twenty (20) days' notice to the permit holder in writing of the time and place of hearing to show cause why the sales tax permit for that place of business should not be revoked, may revoke or suspend the permit pursuant to an order of OTC after failure to show cause or failure to appear by the permit holder.

The bill went into effect on July 1, 2024.

Tattoo and Body Piercing Businesses: [HB 3428](#) by Rep. Nick Archer (R-Elk City) and Sen. Julia Kirt (D-OKC) removes the licensing requirements for a body piercing or tattoo operator. It gives the Dept. of Health authority to enforce the regulation by notifying the district attorney of any relevant county, and the Department may impose an administrative fine not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00). Whenever it appears that any person is engaged or about to engage in any acts or practices that constitute a violation, the Department, the AG or the district attorney may bring an action in the relevant district court or in Oklahoma County. A body piercing or tattoo operator applying for a new license shall publish notice of license application one (1) time in a newspaper of general circulation nearest to the proposed location of the business most likely to give notice to interested citizens of the county, city, and community in which the application

proposed to engage in business. The publication shall identify the exact location at which the business is to be operated. The notice requirement does not apply to license renewals unless the application for license renewal lists a different location.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Court Financial Obligations: [HB 3546](#) by Rep. Danny Sterling (R-Tecumseh) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) provides that at the hearing following the arrest on the cost arrest warrant, the court shall conduct a cost hearing or willfulness hearing, as the court deems appropriate, within seventy-two (72) hours of the arrest unless: the custodian is presented with proof of payment in the amount of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) to each jurisdiction where the financial obligations are owed and the new cost hearing date is provided; the court releases the defendant on the defendant's own recognizance and a new cost hearing date is provided, or the court conducts a cost or willfulness hearing as appropriate and determines the defendant should be released. The district court or municipal court within one hundred twenty (120) days from the date upon which the person fails to comply with the financial obligation as ordered by the court or fails to appear for the offered cost or willfulness hearing, may, if the defendant has previously been notified of the possibility of a suspension, send notice of nonpayment of any court-ordered financial obligation for a moving traffic violation to Service Oklahoma with recommendation of suspension of driving privileges of the defendant until the total amount is paid or waived by the court. Every county and district court shall fully utilize and participate in the court cost compliance program.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Law Enforcement/DNA Labs: [HB 3568](#) by Rep. Robert Manger (R-OKC) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) requires OSBI to promulgate necessary policies, procedures, and forms for participation in a rapid DNA investigative lead program, a statewide program for law enforcement agencies, outlining the collection and processing of crime scene samples utilizing rapid DNA instrumentation. The bill authorizes the OSBI to promulgate program parameters as well as provide the procedures on technical and practical procedures for law enforcement agencies concerning the training, maintenance, and use of rapid DNA instruments throughout the state.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Blockchains/Digital Asset Mining: [HB 3594](#) by Rep. Brian Hill (R-Mustang) and Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) establishes Title 75A in the Oklahoma Statutes to address laws and regulations related to Technology. The bill defines numerous terms related to blockchain and digital asset mining and outlines a series of actions that the state and local governments are prohibited from doing to hinder or restrict the use of digital asset for purchases, commercial asset mining, home asset mining, staking or operating nodes on a blockchain networks. The bill does not prohibit state or a local government from imposing or collecting a tax, withholding, assessment, or charge that would otherwise be offered if the transaction had taken place with US legal tender.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Records Management Act: [HB 3643](#) by Rep. Jeff Boatman (R-Tulsa) and Sen. Darcy Jech (R-Kingfisher) changes procedures for destruction of nonrecord material. The bill modifies the storage procedures for original photographs, microphotographs, film or other media containing duplicate records be stored in a secure location that offers protection from unauthorized access and environmental hazards and conforms to the administrative rules promulgated by the State Records Administrator and Archives and Records Commission. The bill repeals 67 O.S. 2021, Section 312, pertaining to State Librarian and Equipment Supplies.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Municipal Airports Act/Vertiports & Air Navigation Properties: [HB 3672](#) by Rep. Nicole Miller (R-Edmond) and Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) defines "vertiport" to mean an area of land, water, or structure used or intended to be used for the landing and takeoff of VTOL aircraft. "VTOL aircraft" means an aircraft which has vertical takeoff and landing capability. The Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics clearinghouse adds that the Department will investigate the development of and, if necessary, create a statewide system plan that will provide the framework for the construction, development, siting, and potential partnerships required for vertiports, and other infrastructure needed to integrate AAM and UAS into the existing air transportation system of the state. The Department is authorized to enter into partnerships with any city or town of this state and any county or political subdivision or district of this state, or any public trust thereof, for the purpose of investing in and operating infrastructure and any other items necessary to integrate AAM safely and effectively and UAS into the existing air transportation system of the state as well as the testing and development of these new aeronautical technologies.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Fire Departments/Burn Ban Signage: [HB 3763](#) by Rep. Josh Cantrell (R-Kingston) and Sen. Jack Stewart (R-Yukon) requires all fire departments and/or appropriate county officials to place "Burn Ban" signs on agreed-upon signposts controlled by ODOT and the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA). Fire departments and/or appropriate county officials shall work with ODOT to agree upon locations for signage. ODOT shall develop standards that fire departments and/or appropriate county officials shall adhere to in placing signage. It shall be the responsibility of the entity placing the sign to post and remove signage in a timely manner. Signage shall not obstruct the view of traffic. Signage costs shall be the responsibility of the fire department and/or county wishing to install.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Open Records/Discovery Process: [HB 3779](#) by Rep. Collin Duel (R-Guthrie) and Sen. Rob Standridge (R-Norman) modifies definitions and adds language relating to the Oklahoma Open Records Act. The bill reduces the list of things identified as "non-records" that are not subject to confidentiality. The bill also allows a person who requests and is denied access to records of a public body or public official to bring a civil suit under Subsection B, any person seeking declaratory or injunctive relief, or both. The person must notify the public body or public official of his or her intent to bring a civil suit to obtain relief in writing ten (10) business days prior to filing for such relief. Such notice must also be provided to the AG.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Open Meeting Act/Video Conferencing & Teleconferencing: [HB 3780](#) by Rep. Collin Duel (R-Guthrie) and Sen. Jessica Garvin (R-Duncan) eliminates the language pertaining to the use of teleconferencing and video conferencing during a state of emergency to respond to the threat of COVID-19.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Law Enforcement/Retired Officers: [HB 3786](#) by Rep. John George (R-Newalla) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) does not require a retired peace officer applying for an armed security guard license or armed private investigator license or a combination thereof to provide a set of classifiable fingerprints to CLEET and shall be exempt from the provisions of paragraph 2 of this subsection upon submitting to CLEET a notarized letter confirming that the peace officer retired in good standing from a law enforcement agency within this state.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Police Pension and Retirement System/Late Charges: [HB 3858](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) provides for a monthly late fee of five percent (5%) of the unpaid balance to be paid by the municipality to the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System. The bill also updates to the latest revision of the IRS Code, effective for calendar years after 2023 with respect to certain distributions shall be considered.

The bill went into effect on April 23, 2024.

Utility Bills/Domestic Violence Victims: [HB 3863](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Kristen Thompson (R-Edmond) adds another factor for individuals who have been victims of domestic violence or stalking to be exempt from the public utility's initial credit and deposit requirements for individuals who are a designated representative of a domestic violence shelter or domestic violence program operated by a federally recognized Indian tribe.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Open Meeting Act/Public Notice: [HB 3937](#) by Rep. Melissa Provenzano (D-Tulsa) and Sen. George Burns (R-Pollard) strikes expired provisions from the Oklahoma Open Meeting that allowed public bodies to meet by teleconference during the threat of COVID-19. The bill clarifies that all state public bodies are to post meeting information at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to regularly scheduled meetings by posting the date, time, place and agenda for the meeting in prominent public view at the principal office of the public body or at the location of the meeting if no office exists and posting on the public body's Internet website the date, time, place and agenda for the meeting.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Law Enforcement/DUI: [HB 3960](#) by Rep. Jon Echols (R-OKC) and Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) removes the ability of the court to suspend the sentence or give probation to a third or subsequent DUI offender.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Fire Extinguishers/Food Trucks: [HB 3995](#) by Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) and Sen. Kristen Thompson (R-Edmond) requires mobile food establishments to install portable fire extinguishers. All fire extinguishers shall be inspected annually by a licensed contractor. All portable fire extinguishers shall be in clear view and immediately available for use. The provisions of this section shall sunset on November 1, 2025.

The bill went into effect on April 23, 2024.

CLEET/Training Reimbursement: [HB 3998](#) by Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) and Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) provides that if an employing law enforcement agency has paid for a peace officer's training and within one (1) year after the date the person is commissioned with the law enforcement agency resigns and is hired by another law enforcement agency in this state, the second law enforcement agency shall reimburse the original employing agency for the cost of CLEET training and salary paid to the person while completing the basic police course by the original law enforcement agency. If the person leaves the original employing law enforcement agency later than one (1) year, but less than two (2) years, after the date the person is commissioned, the second law enforcement agency shall reimburse the original law enforcement agency fifty percent (50%) of the CLEET costs and salary paid to the person while completing the training.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Public Pools/Spas: [HB 4035](#) by Rep. Tammy Townley (R-Ardmore) and Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) requires the State Department of Health to establish regulations for public pools and spas. The Department shall not regulate: 1) spray pads, spray grounds, or splash pads intended for use by children in which the water is supplied by a system of sprays and does not accumulate above ground; 2) pools located at private residences; 3) pools run by Homeowner's Association where pools or spas are limited to use by the homeowner group and their nonpaying guests; and 4) public and semipublic pools where the main objective is the external cleansing of the body. The State Commissioner of Health is authorized to create rules ensuring safety and sanitation, set fees, and define penalties for non-compliance. The bill sets the cost for construction permit applications and operation license applications at Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for municipalities with a population of five thousand (5,000) or less, according to the latest Federal Decennial Census. The bill requires public pool owners to apply for construction permits via a form designated by the Department, base designs on the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code, possess an annual license, and allow Department inspections. Pools found non-compliant during consecutive inspections may be considered a public nuisance and permanently closed. These pools shall be considered permanently closed by the municipality in which the public pool is located. Municipalities may secure permanently closed public pools and spas and charge the costs against the taxes of the owner. Permanently closed pools must go through the licensure or construction permit process before reopening to the public. The bill repeals 63 O.S. 2021, Sections

1-1013, 1-1013.1, 1-1013.2, 1-1014, 1-1015, 1-1016, 1-1016A, 1-1016B, 1-1017, 1-1018, 1-1019, 1-1020, 1-1020.1, and 1-1021.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Firefighter Pension and Retirement System/Military Credit: [HB 4051](#) by Rep. Stan May (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) allows a member who served in the Armed Forces of the United States or any component thereof and who was honorably discharged may receive up to five years of prior or participating military service credit, only upon payment of the actuarial cost of service credit as determined by the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension & Retirement System. The service credit provided shall be administered pursuant to subsections B through D of this section, including but not limited to, only full-time active duty military service not for training only purposes, unless discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability, as reflected on the members Defense Department Form 214, shall be considered for prior service credit and such prior service credit shall only be used in determining the member's retirement benefit but shall not be used in determining years of service for retirement, vesting purposes or eligibility for participating in the Oklahoma Firefighters Deferred Option Plan.

Section 1 of this bill goes into effect on October 1, 2024.

Section 2 of this bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Law Enforcement/Larceny of Gift Cards: [HB 4069](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) adds gift cards to larceny of merchandise. The bill modifies the crime of falsely manufacturing of credit and debit cards to include the cloning or altering any credit, debit or similar card containing a magnetic strip capable of storing data. The bill provides that the possession of three (3) or more cards containing cloned or altered data is a rebuttable presumption that the person possesses the cards with the intent to defraud. The bill modifies the penalties for possession of cloned or altered cards by providing that the possession of five or fewer cards is a felony punishable by a term of imprisonment of not less than two (2) years nor more than five years and a fine of up to Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00). Possession of six (6) to twenty (20) cards is a felony punishable by imprisonment of not less than five years and not more than ten years and a fine of not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00). Possession of twenty (20) or more falsely made cards is a felony punishable by a term of imprisonment of not less than ten (10) years and not more than twenty (20) years and a fine of up to One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00).

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Law Enforcement/Alyssa's Law: [HB 4073](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) creates Alyssa's Law. Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, each school district in the state shall implement a hardwired or mobile panic alert system. The system shall: 1) connect emergency service technologies to ensure real-time coordination among multiple first responder agencies; and 2) integrate with public safety answering point infrastructure to transmit 9-1-1 calls and mobile activations. The bill requires the State Department of Education to publish a list of approved hardwired or mobile panic alert systems and set up the minimum requirements for those systems.

The bill goes into effect on July 1, 2024.

Fire Districts/Arbitration: [HB 4091](#) by Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Lawton) and Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) authorizes the Fire Marshal's Commission on service areas and to determine fire protection service area boundary lines should a disagreement over service areas arise between jurisdictions providing services, with or without an agreement. In deciding the Fire Marshal's Commission must consider but is not limited to, the importance of a quick response time, financial burden on both the service providers and, the jurisdiction receiving services, and the capabilities of both jurisdictions to render services.

The bill goes into effect on July 1, 2024.

Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act: [HB 4095](#) by Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Lawton) and Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) adds definitions to the act. "Watch and Protect" to mean an operator or its designated representative is present to observe an excavation within ten (10) feet of the operator's marking of its existing underground facility. "Pre-Excavation Meeting Request" means a notice to an underground facility operator to participate in scheduled meetings for the purpose of planning large projects and coordinate resources accordingly. "Large projects" means those excavation projects that involve one of the following: exceeds distances or estimated duration is more than ninety (90) days. The bill modifies the definition of "underground facility" to include projects in a private easement. If a positive response of watch and protect has been indicated, excavation is prohibited without the operator or its designated representative present to observe the markings. If a positive response to watch and protect is indicated, the operator shall provide the name and phone number of the contact who shall be present for observation and a designated operator representative shall be on site at the ticket date and time agreed upon in writing by the excavator and operator. Excavators involved in large projects may submit a pre-excavation meeting request no less than fourteen (14) calendar days prior to beginning excavation or blasting activities. The date of the meeting shall be a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours after the notification has been submitted. All parties involved in the pre-excavation meeting shall coordinate a marking plan and take actions necessary to ensure proper notice requirements are met for affected facility operators. The bill requires the Oklahoma One-Call System to keep notifications and positive responses for at least four (4) years.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Law Enforcement/Immigration: [HB 4156](#) by Speaker Charles McCall (R-Atoka) and Sen. Pro Tempore Greg Treat (R-OKC) provides that impermissible occupation occurs if the person is an alien and willfully and without permission enters and remains in the State of Oklahoma without having first obtained legal authorization to enter the United States. A conviction is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for up to one (1) year, a fine of not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or both fine and imprisonment. A second or subsequent conviction is a felony, punishable by imprisonment for up to two (2) years, a fine of up to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or both fine and imprisonment. Any person convicted of impermissible occupation is required to leave the state within seventy-two (72) hours following conviction or release from custody, whichever comes later. The bill provides penalties for any alien who has been denied admission, excluded, or removed, or has departed the United States while an order of removal is outstanding and then enters or attempts to enter or is found in

Oklahoma is guilty of a felony. Law enforcement is required to collect all identifying information of persons arrested for impermissible occupation and cross-reference the information with relevant criminal databases. OSBI is authorized to maintain the collected information. The bill provides that it is an affirmative defense that the person has been granted lawful presence by the federal government or has been granted asylum by the federal government or the defendant was approved for benefits under DACA. The bill prohibits eligibility for probation or delayed sentencing or participation in community sentencing for convictions of impermissible occupation. The bill declares a statewide preemption on legislation concerning the presence of persons who enter and remain in the state without legal authorization. The bill also provides a severability clause.

The bill went into effect on July 1, 2024.

SENATE BILLS OF MUNICIPAL INTEREST SIGNED INTO LAW

City-County Library Meetings: [SB 5](#) by Sen. Kevin Matthews (D-Tulsa) and Rep. Monroe Nichols (D-Tulsa) authorizes the City-County Library Commission to hold at least four (4) meetings each year and at other times as deemed necessary by the Commission.

The bill went into effect on July 1, 2024.

Municipal Lands: [SB 7](#) by Pro Tempore Greg Treat (R-OKC) and Speaker Charles McCall (R-Atoka) authorizes the governing body of any municipality and public trusts to lease public lakes or public lands abutting a lake. Lakes and lands which adjoin and abut upon a lake owned or leased by a municipality or by a public trust, may be used or leased, for the fair market value, for amusement, parks, or recreation without abandoning or declaring such public property as surplus or unsuitable, providing the governing body of the municipality determines the use of such property is a compatible contemporaneous use that is subordinate to the primary public purpose for which the lake or land was purchased or leased. Any municipality or public trust may contract with any person, entity, or governmental entity to manage the leased land. The bill also allows a municipality to own, construct, and operate a marina.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Police Pension & Retirement System Increase: [SB 102](#) by Sen. Jessica Garvin (R-Duncan) and Rep. Steve Bashore (R-Miami) increases the benefit multiplier from two and a half percent (2.5%) to three percent (3%) for participants of the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System (OPPRS). In addition, the bill increases the member's contribution rate from eight percent (8%) to nine percent (9%) and the municipal employer's contribution rate from thirteen percent (13%) to fourteen percent (14%).

Section 1 of the bill goes into effect on June 1, 2025.

Sections 2 through 5 go into effect on July 1, 2025.

World Health Organization/UN/World Economic Forum Policies: [SB 426](#) by Sen. George Burns (R-Pollard) and Rep. Rick West (R-Heavener) declares that the World Health Organization, the United Nations, and the World Economic Forum do not have jurisdiction in this state. The state and its political subdivisions shall not be compelled to engage in the enforcement of, or any collaboration with the enforcement of, any requirements or mandates issued by these organizations. Any requirements or mandates shall not be used in this state as a basis for action, nor to direct, order, or otherwise impose contrary to the constitution and laws of this state.

The bill went into effect on June 5, 2024.

Initiative & Referendums: [SB 518](#) by Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) and Rep. Mark Lepak (R-Claremore) modifies the initiative and referendum process by allowing proponents of a referendum or an initiative petition to file a petition pamphlet with the Secretary of State at any time, and the Secretary of State must immediately begin the counting and review process.

The bill went into effect on April 23, 2024.

Law Enforcement/School Mapping Data: [SB 526](#) by Sen. Adam Pugh (R-Edmond) and Rep. Jon Echols (R-OKC) provides if a public school district in this state chooses to map its campus, the school district must use the school mapping data guidelines outlined in this section. "School mapping data" means information provided in an electronic or digital format to assist first responders in responding to emergencies at schools. The school mapping data must be compatible with software used by public safety agencies and the school without additional costs. Data must also be printable and digital, accurate according to on-site inspections, and labeled for structures, grounds, and coordinates. It should align with true north and overlay aerial imagery. Data may not be independently modified without corresponding updates to public safety agency software.

The bill went into effect on July 1, 2024.

Firearm/Training Course Exceptions: [SB 721](#) by Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Wilson) and Rep. Tom Gann (R-Inola) removes language requiring firearms instructors to train with a specific type of firearm in order to qualify as an instructor for that firearm.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Law Enforcement/Larceny of Firearms: [SB 859](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Rep. John George (R-Newalla) increases the penalties for larceny of a firearm to imprisonment in DOC not to exceed five (5) years or a fine not to exceed Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) or both.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Alcoholic Beverage Licenses: [SB 1057](#) by Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) and Rep. Jon Echols (R-OKC) provides the sales and services of mixed beverages by holders of mixed beverage licenses of an Entertainment District Tenant Party shall be limited to the premises of an Entertainment District.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture: [SB 1155](#) by Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) and Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) and Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Lawton) directs Eighteen Million Dollars (\$18,000,000.00) to the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture Supplemental Revolving Fund for the repair, maintenance, and construction of the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture. The full Eighteen Million Dollars (\$18,000,000.00) must be available by November 15, 2025.

The bill goes into effect on July 1, 2024.

Law Enforcement/ARIDE Training: [SB 1168](#) by Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) and Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) and Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Lawton) authorizes the Department of Public Safety to establish and administer a pilot program to increase the

availability of Advanced Roadside Impairment Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) training. The purpose of the program is to increase the number of peace officers qualified to conduct certain drug-impairment screening tests during impaired driving investigations. DPS is authorized to provide funding, administer the program, and establish the grant criteria.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Sales Tax/Disabled Veteran's Registry: [SB 1215](#) by Sen. Brenda Stanley (R-Midwest City) and Rep. Josh West (R-Grove) eliminates the deadline for veterans that received the sales tax exemption to register with the veteran registry in order to continue qualifying for the exemption.

The bill went into effect on March 5, 2024.

Sales Tax Rebate/Qualifying Broadband Equipment: [SB 1259](#) by Sen. Roger Thompson (R-Okemah) and Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) extends the ability to file rebate claims for the sales tax exemption on broadband equipment. Claims must be submitted by September 1 of the subsequent calendar year expansion that is completed by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

The bill goes into effect on August 28, 2024.

DEQ/Blue River-Little Blue Creek Stream Health Assessment Study: [SB 1273](#) by Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Wilson) and Rep. Tammy Townley (R-Ardmore) creates a revolving fund for DEQ to be designated the Blue River-Little Blue Creek Stream Health Assessment Revolving Fund. As it relates to waters emanating from a sensitive sole source aquifer, DEQ shall establish and perform a Blue River-Little Blue Creek Stream Health Assessment Study. DEQ shall coordinate with a research university for the purpose of defining the study scope and conducting the work necessary to complete data collection and the development of the Blue River-Little Blue Creek Stream Health Assessment Study. DEQ shall preference resources and partnerships within this state during evaluation for the performance of conducting this study.

The bill went into effect on July 1, 2024.

Grocery Sales Tax Exemption/Terms: [SB 1283](#) by Sen. Pro Tempore Greg Treat (R-OKC) and Speaker Charles McCall (R-Atoka) adds definitions for "bottled water" and "food sold with eating utensils" provided by the seller, as it relates to the state sales tax exemption on groceries and food items. The bill amends the definition of "prepared food" to clarify that food sold with eating utensils provided by the seller is taxable if it does not include a container or packaging used to transport the food. The definition of prepared food is further modified to exclude food sold by a food manufacturer, food sold in an unheated state by weight or volume as a single item and food sold that ordinarily requires additional cooking by the consumer prior to consumption. The bill eliminates the temporary moratorium on local sales tax increases on food and food ingredients that would have been in place until June 30, 2025.

The bill goes into effect on August 28, 2024.

Volunteer Firefighter Group Insurance Pool: [SB 1333](#) by Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) and Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Lawton) applies only to workers compensation claims for volunteer firefighters incurred prior to the effective date of this act. No later than the effective date of this act, the Volunteer Firefighter Group Insurance Pool shall be transferred to the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) Comprehensive Professional Risk Management Program. Provided, existing reserves from the Pool shall remain with CompSource Mutual Insurance Company for the purpose of managing claims incurred prior to the effective date of this act. All claims incurred on and after the effective date of this act shall be administered by (OMES). OMES may contract with a third-party administrator or hire up to two (2) FTE's to administer the Pool. OMES shall collect a premium of One Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$120.00) per firefighter from state agencies, public trusts, and other instrumentalities of the state. Any funds received by OMES from any state agency, public trust, or other instrumentality for purposes of workers compensation insurance shall be deposited to the credit of the Volunteer Firefighter Group Insurance Pool. OMES shall collect premiums, pay claims, and provide excess insurance as needed. The bill directs the Office to submit an electronic report to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and Governor detailing the number of enrollees in the Pool and the amount of any anticipated surplus or deficiency of the Pool. Notice shall also be provided by the Office to the listed entities of any proposed change in rates for the Pool. The bill provides that the amount of claims aid, claim expenses, underwriting losses, loss ratio, or any other financial aspect of the Pool shall not be considered when determining or considering bids. The bill also creates the Volunteer Firefighter Group Insurance Pool Revolving Fund.

The bill went into effect on July 1, 2024.

Nonopioid Alternatives: [SB 1344](#) by Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) and Rep. Josh West (R-Grove) authorizes the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the State Department of Health, and the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to collaborate in finding funding opportunities for educational and health care services related to nonopioid alternatives as well as to assist political subdivisions that receive opioid grant awards under the Political Subdivisions Opioid Abatement Grants Act with the development and implementation of educational and health care services related to nonopioid alternatives. The bill also prohibits the Authority and contracted entities from denying coverage of a nonopioid drug in favor of an opioid drug. The bill clarifies that it shall not preclude opioid drugs from being preferred over other opioid drugs or nonopioid drugs from being preferred over other nonopioid drugs.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Poultry Feeding Operations: [SB 1424](#) by Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) and Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) amends the Oklahoma Registered Poultry Feeding Operations Act. The bill revises the best management practices so that they reflect the poultry waste nutrient management plans, rather than the industry itself. The bill clarifying that the occurrence of poultry waste runoff indicates a plan revision is required and that the operators of poultry feeding operations and poultry waste applicators are responsible for obtaining any required training. The bill creates administrative penalties and requires ODAFF to use penalty money to fund enforcement of the act. The bill creates a pathway for growers and integrators to achieve compliance and removes the ability for a court to grant interim equitable relief or punitive damages. It also offers liability protection from action related to poultry waste runoff, if poultry integrators and growers comply

with the nutrient management plan and ensures that nothing in the language prohibits a civil suit for damages caused by a violation of a nutrient management plan.

The bill goes into effect on August 28, 2024.

Oklahoma Ports Infrastructure Revolving Fund: [SB 1429](#) by Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Nicole Miller (R-Edmond) creates the Oklahoma Ports Infrastructure Revolving Fund (OPIRF). Such monies shall include but not are limited to: monies received by ODOT for waterway projects or infrastructure projects at public water ports; principal and interest and penalty payments on loans made directly from appropriated monies in the fund; and any other sums deposited into the fund from any public or private source. The monies placed in the OPIRF shall be invested by the State Treasurer. Income and earnings from the fund shall accrue to the fund and may be used for the purposes provided for in this section. Any interest earned shall be deposited in the OPIRF. A qualified project shall: 1) enhance the safe and efficient operation of the commercial waterway systems of this state; or 2) repair, improve, or construct waterway or industrial park infrastructure located at or within waterway ports of this state that are determined to provide a public benefit. Projects must be developed in coordination with the United States Army Corps of Engineers and all Indian tribes with an ownership interest in the riverbed of the Arkansas River when necessary. ODOT is authorized to issue loans from the Fund and grant an amount not exceeding ten percent (10%) of the funds available in the OPPIRF during any (1) year for qualified projects. ODOT shall promulgate rules necessary to effectuate this act. ODOT shall also promulgate rules to ensure any grants or loans made from the OPIRF are made at market-competitive terms.

The bill goes into effect on January 1, 2025.

Sales Tax/Heavy Equipment Rental Fees: [SB 1438](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) and Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) provides that a company primarily in the business of renting heavy equipment property classified under 532412 or 532310 of the 2017 NAICS; located in this state may include as a separate line item on the rental invoice a recovery fee of one and twenty-five hundredths percent (1.25%) on the rental charge from any item of heavy equipment property rental by a customer.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Sales Tax Exemptions/OSU: [SB 1445](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) and Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) creates a new sales tax exemption for providing exemptions for the OSU Medical Authority and Trust and the OSU Veterinary Medicine Authority and Trust that has duly entered into a public contract with the entities.

The bill went into effect on July 1, 2024.

Economic Development/COMPETE Act: [SB 1447](#) by Sen. Kristen Thompson (R-Edmond) and Rep. Mike Osburn (R-Edmond) creates the Creating Oklahoma's Modern Plan for Economic Transformation and Effectiveness (COMPETE) Act. The bill creates two separate and distinct divisions within the Department of Commerce to be known as the Division on Economic Development, Growth, and Expansion (EDGE) and the Division on Community Outreach and

Revitalization Enterprise (CORE). EDGE shall serve as the state's lead economic development point of contact. CORE's focus shall be to focus on the long-term development of local communities to increase competitiveness and enhance economic opportunities. The Director of Commerce will be changed to Chief Executive Officer (CEO), establishes additional qualifications for the position and modifies which boards the CEO will serve on. Furthermore, the bill adds the Oklahoma Workforce Commission as a collaborator on the state's five-year economic development plan and requires the plan to include an economic development strategy that addresses target industries, site development and workforce needs. The bill creates an eight (8) member Legislative Evaluation and Development Committee.

The bill went into effect on June 5, 2024.

Workers' Compensation Court of Existing Claims: [SB 1456](#) by Sen. Pro Tempore Greg Treat (R-OKC) and Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) directs the Court of Civil Appeals to establish the Court of Existing Claims (CEC) Division to replace the three-judge en banc panel of the Workers' Compensation Court of Existing Claims. The CEC Division has jurisdiction over all appeals filed pursuant to the Workers Compensation Code or previous statute in effect on the date of an injury that occurred before February 1, 2014. CEC does not have jurisdiction over any claim arising on or after the effective date of this act. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court must appoint one judge from a list of retired judges on a rotational basis to serve as the CEC trial judge. All judicial functions of the CEC remain under the Supreme Court's authority. The CEC must contract with the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission to provide support services and personnel needs.

The bill went into effect on July 1, 2024.

Worker's Compensation/PTSD: [SB 1457](#) by Sen. Pro Tempore Greg Treat (R-OKC) and Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) adds a mental injury for a first responder who suffers post-traumatic stress disorder while responding to an emergency to be compensable. The bill defines "first responders." If the treating physician is of the opinion that the first responder is temporarily unable to perform his or her job or any alternative work offered by the employer, he or she shall be entitled to receive compensation which is the greater of the weekly benefit provided for in a collective bargaining agreement or according to the policy of the employer, or seventy percent (70%) of the injured employees average weekly wage not to exceed the state average weekly wage. If the employee has a temporary pension benefit available at no additional cost to the employee and the benefit is equal to or greater than the temporary award in this system, the employer may elect to exercise the temporary pension benefit. In no event shall the disability benefits extend beyond fifty-two (52) weeks). A first responder who receives benefits for a mental injury or illness not accompanied by a physical injury who, after reaching maximum medical improvement, is unable to perform the essential functions of his or her employment position and who is not eligible to receive a disability retirement through his or her pension or retirement system shall be eligible to be awarded permanent disability benefits not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00). In the event that the Workers Compensation Commission finds that a first responder has suffered PTSD not accompanied by a physical injury, the employer shall provide reasonable and necessary medical treatment for such injury, subject to the Commissions Fee Schedule, for a period not longer than one (1) year. The employer shall not be responsible for medical treatment in the form of prescription medicine in excess of Ten Thousand Dollars

(\$10,000.00). During any period in which a first responder is temporarily unable to perform his or her job, the employer must pay to maintain health insurance coverage for the first responder if such health insurance was in effect on the date of the injury. Claim payments for volunteer firefighters shall be paid pursuant to the Volunteer Firefighter Group Insurance Pool.

The bill goes into effect on January 1, 2025.

Law Enforcement/School Resource Officers: [SB 1521](#) by Sen. Dewayne Pemberton (R-Muskogee) and Rep. Dick Lowe (R-Amber) authorizes a school district participating in the School Resource Officer Program to give priority to a law enforcement officer who is trained in school-based law enforcement and crisis response. If a law enforcement officer as described in paragraph 1 of this subsection is unavailable, a participating school district may employ or contract with a retired law enforcement officer or security guard who is licensed pursuant to the Oklahoma Security Guard & Private Investigator Act. The law enforcement agency that serves the area in which a school district is located must preauthorize any individual employed or contracted with under this paragraph. The school shall require a background check on the individual. The law enforcement agency that serves the area in which the school district is located shall allow an authorized individual employed or contracted with the school district access to the preauthorizing agency's radio system, pursuant to this paragraph and a police band radio system, pursuant to this paragraph and a police band radio system which may be used by the individual in the performance of his or her duties to be paid for by the employing district. A school district may use funds from the School Security Revolving Fund to cover the cost of the radio system.

The bill went into effect on July 1, 2024.

Firefighters Pension/Volunteers: [SB 1524](#) by Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) and Rep. Danny Sterling (R-Tecumseh) provides that a retired, paid firefighter performing volunteer firefighting services shall not accrue additional years of credited service for such services. A retired volunteer firefighter receiving the maximum allowable accrued retirement benefit may return as a volunteer firefighter for a volunteer fire department and continue to receive the members retirement benefit; however, the retired volunteer firefighter shall not further accrue years of service during such period. The bill specifies the benefit shall cease during any time period the retiree may thereafter serve for the compensation in any municipal fire department in the state; provided further, no person shall perform any services as a volunteer firefighter if such person is receiving disability benefits. Maximum allowable accrued retirement benefit means a benefit calculated using thirty (30) years of credited service. If the member has elected to participate in the Oklahoma Firefighters Deferred Option Plan (DROP), credited service for benefit calculation shall be calculated as of the date the member begins participation in the Plan, or the backdrop date if elected. No person serving as a firefighter pursuant to this section shall be eligible to serve as the fire chief. Pursuant to Section 49-100.1 of this title, the fire chief shall be an active member of the System within a participating municipality of which he or she is the fire chief.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Municipal Court Holidays: [SB 1545](#) by Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) and Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) authorizes municipal courts of record to close on holidays declared by the municipal governing body on dates when the municipal offices close.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Revenue/State and Tribal Funding: [SB 1564](#) by Sen. Tom Dugger (R-Stillwater) and Rep. Ty Burns (R-Pawnee) allows cities, counties, towns, and other subdivisions the ability to accept and use state and tribal monies.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Open Records: [SB 1574](#) by Sen. Kay Floyd (D-OKC) and Rep. Tammy Townley (R-Ardmore) defines "record" to also mean applications and other documents related to licensure matters that are filed of record in a district court including but not limited to marriage licenses, process server licenses, closing out sale licenses, transient merchant licenses, pool hall licenses, and bail bondsmen registrations.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Electric Vehicle Charging Act: [SB 1587](#) by Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) and Rep. Brian Hill (R-Mustang) modifies the definition of electric vehicle as it relates to the Oklahoma Electric Vehicle Charging Act to require such vehicles to draw current from fuel cells to power an electric motor. The bill defines "fuel cell" to mean a cell that converts the chemical energy of hydrogen directly into electricity through electrochemical reactions. The bill also defines "hydrogen fueling station" to mean any equipment that dispenses hydrogen into a motor vehicle or electric vehicle powered by a fuel cell. The bill clarifies that the provisions of the Act shall not be construed as to prohibit an electric supplier or municipal corporation from operating, leasing, installing, or otherwise procuring service from an electric vehicle charging station or hydrogen fueling station on its own premises for the sole purpose of serving its own electric vehicles that is not open to the public. The bill does not apply to fueling stations that were constructed, provided by, owned, operated, or maintained by a retail electric supplier or municipal corporation prior to November 1, 2023.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Planning/Restrictive Covenants: [SB 1617](#) by Sen. Kristen Thompson (R-Edmond) and Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) authorizes municipalities to amend an existing plat which was previously filed with the office of the county clerk of the county where the addition is located to remove an illegal discriminatory restrictive covenant pursuant to the Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C., Section 3601 et in the office of the county clerk of the county where the addition is located against all parcels within the addition after: 1) the municipality must provide thirty (30) days written notice of the within the addition of the proposed amendment to remove an illegal discriminatory restrictive covenant, the notice including the time, date and place of the planning commission meeting where the amendment body of the municipality approves the amended plat. Nothing shall be construed as requiring the approval of the amended plat by the property owners of all parcels within the addition. An illegal discriminatory restrictive covenant contained on a plat is not enforceable in this state, and all illegal discriminatory restrictive covenants contained in plats recorded in this state are unlawful, unenforceable, and declared null and void. Any illegal discriminatory restrictive covenant contained in an existing plat is extinguished and severed from the plat, with the remainder of such plat remaining enforceable and effective.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Law Enforcement/Run Aways: [SB 1638](#) by Sen. Ally Seifried (R-Claremore) and Rep. John Talley (R-Stillwater) requires DHS to communicate certain information in a report submitted to law enforcement and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. This report shall include where reasonably possible: a) a photo of the missing or abducted child or youth; b) a description of the child's or youth's physical features; and c) endangerment information, such as the child's or youth's pregnancy status, prescription medicines, tendency towards suicidal thoughts, vulnerability to being a victim of sex trafficking, and other health or risk factors. DHS shall maintain regular communication with law enforcement and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in an effort to provide for a safe recovery, including by sharing information pertaining to the child's or youth's recovery and circumstances related to the recovery.

The bill went into effect on April 23, 2024.

Law Enforcement/Search Warrants: [SB 1660](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Rep. Collin Duel (R-Guthrie) allows for search warrants to be issued for persons for whom an arrest warrant has been issued and bring the property or person before the magistrate. The bill defines "arrest warrant" to mean an outstanding arrest warrant for any felony offense or a misdemeanor offense of domestic assault and battery. The term shall include arrest and bench warrants but shall not include warrants issued solely for failure to pay court financial obligations, other than restitution. Such a search warrant may be used by peace officers to enter the residence of another person who is not the subject of an arrest warrant to find the person listed on the search warrant. The bill requires an officer executing such a warrant to return the search warrant to the magistrate who authorized the warrant or to a magistrate who presides in the judicial district in which the person was found by filing an arrest and booking affidavit or by filing a separate return identifying the person and the location where the person was found.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Ownership of Land/Foreign Governments: [SB 1705](#) by Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) and Speaker Charles McCall (R-Atoka) prohibits foreign government adversaries designated as hostile or a Country of Particular Concern from owning land in the state. The bill authorizes a person's attorney-in-fact, a court-appointed guardian or personal representative, an authorized officer of the entity, or trustee of the trust to execute the affidavit when registering a deed with the county clerk. The bill outlines which deeds are exempt from this affidavit. The bill also replaces references to escheatment proceedings with language describing foreclosure.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Advancement of Wellness Advisory Council: [SB 1708](#) by Sen. Ally Seifried (R-Claremore) and Rep. Cynthia Roe (R-Lindsay) outlines the appointment of the ten (10)-member Advancement of Wellness Advisory Council. Three (3) members appointed by the Governor, three (3) members appointed by the Pro Tempore of the Senate, three (3) members appointed by the Speaker of the House, and one appointed by the Commissioner of Health. Six (6) members will constitute a quorum. The bill also adds one member who is knowledgeable about cardiometabolic disease

including obesity, dyslipidemia, hypertension, and diabetes; one member who represents an Urban Indian Health Center in this state or a nonprofit organization with a major focus on improving public health for citizens of federally recognized tribes in this state, and one member who represents a federally recognized tribe based in this state which maintains a tribally operated health system.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Law Enforcement/Burglary: [SB 1735](#) by Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) and Rep. Terry O'Donnell (R-Catoosa) makes it a crime for a person who, with the intent to commit a crime, enters an area of a commercial business that is: 1) commonly reserved for personnel of the commercial business where money or other property is kept; or 2) clearly marked with a sign or signs that indicates to the public that entry is forbidden, shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for a term of not more than one (1) year, or a fine of not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment. Any second or subsequent conviction under the provisions of this subsection shall be a felony punishable by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections for a term of not more than two (2) years, or by a fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

First Responders/Opioid Antagonists/Liability Protection: [SB 1740](#) by Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) and Rep. Jeff Boatman (R-Tulsa) defines "emergency opioid antagonist" to mean a drug including, but not limited to, naloxone that blocks the effects of opioids and that is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of an opioid overdose. Any first responder who administers or provides an emergency opioid antagonist in good faith and in a manner consistent with addressing opioid overdose shall not be liable for any civil damages as a result of any acts or omissions by such first responder except for committing gross negligence or willful wanton wrongs in administering or providing such emergency opioid antagonist.

The bill went into effect on April 19, 2024.

Homeless Camps/State-Owned Lands: [SB 1854](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) prohibits persons from using state-owned lands as an unauthorized camp. Any person who violates this law commits a misdemeanor. However, a person who commits a first violation shall be issued a warning, and a citation may not be issued unless the person refuses any assistance, food pantry or other place where resources are made available to assist the indigent and homeless.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Law Enforcement/Mental Health Transport: [SB 1862](#) by Rep. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Marcus McEntire (R-Duncan) transfers the responsibility of transporting an individual who self-presents at a facility or medical facility to the Department of Mental Health Substance Abuse Services or an entity contracted by the Department for alternative transportation.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Law Enforcement/Larceny: [SB 1877](#) by Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) and Rep. Terry O'Donnell (R-Catoosa) expands the time period to be considered for aggregate crimes of larceny from ninety (90) days to one hundred eighty (180) days.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Municipal Airports Act/Vertiports & Air Navigation Properties: [SB 1912](#) by Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) defines "vertiport" to mean an area of land, water, or structure used or intended to be used for the landing and takeoff of VTOL aircraft. "VTOL aircraft" means an aircraft which has vertical takeoff and landing capability. The Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics clearinghouse adds that the Department will investigate the development of and, if necessary, create a statewide system plan that will provide the framework for the construction, development, siting, and potential partnerships required for vertiports, and other infrastructure needed to integrate AAM and UAS into the existing air transportation system of the state. The Department is authorized to enter into partnerships with any city or town of this state and any county or political subdivision or district of this state, or any public trust thereof, for the purpose of investing in and operating infrastructure and any other items necessary to safely and effectively integrate AAM and UAS into the existing air transportation system of the state as well as the testing and development of these new aeronautical technologies.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Groundwater Irrigation Districts: [SB 1914](#) by Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) and Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) requires all permit holders within a groundwater irrigation district to participate.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Pedestrians/Crosswalks: [SB 1923](#) by Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Wilson) and Rep. Nicole Miller (R-Edmond) modifies the area set aside on roads for pedestrian use from safety zone to pedestrian refuge. The bill provides for symbols to be steady Don't Walk or the WALKING PERSON or UPRAISED HAND signal showing. Pedestrians are prohibited from entering the roadway in the direction of the signal indication. The bill removes language providing that a car may only use the center lane in a three-lane highway when overtaking a vehicle.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

Law Enforcement/SAFE Board: [SB 1933](#) by Sen. Kay Floyd (D-OKC) and Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) creates the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) Board within the Office of the Attorney General. The Board's duties include developing a comprehensive training plan for equipping and enhancing the work of law enforcement, prosecutors, victim advocates, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, and multidisciplinary Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) across all jurisdictions within this State; identify and pursue grants and other funding source to address untested sexual assault forensic evidence kits; examine the process for gathering and analyzing sexual assault forensic evidence kits and work with members of the Legislature to draft proposed

legislation to improve the response of medical and law enforcement systems to sexual assault; and other duties. The Board shall promulgate rules establishing criteria for the collection of sexual assault forensic evidence; establish and maintain statistical information; and other duties assigned by law.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

OK Local Development & Enterprise Zone Incentive Leverage Act/Reporting: [SB 2017](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) and Rep. Lonnie Sims (R-Jenks) requires an enterprise or entity receiving payments authorized pursuant to the provisions of Section 844 of this title shall annually report to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce the following: 1. All employment resulting from the project or facility location or expansion, including payroll amounts; 2. Capital investment amounts resulting from the project or facility location or expansion; and 3. Changes in the assessed value of property resulting from the project or facility location or expansion. The Department shall make available on the Department website the information reported pursuant to this subsection.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2024.

State Question/Public Infrastructure Districts: [SJR 16](#) by Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Terry O'Donnell (R-Catoosa) proposes a state question for the people to amend the Oklahoma Constitution by adding a new Section 9E of Article X by allowing the creation of Public Infrastructure Districts. The joint resolution authorizes municipalities to approve the creation of such districts using district bonds to pay for all or part of the cost of public improvements within such districts. A public infrastructure district shall not be created unless the petition filed in the municipality contains one hundred percent (100%) of surface property owners in the proposed public infrastructure district. The levy shall be in addition to all other levies authorized by this Constitution, and when approved, shall be made for the repayment of the public infrastructure districts bonds. The resolution also authorizes the Legislature to enact such laws as may be necessary in order to implement public infrastructure districts.

The election date for [State Question 833](#) will be November 5, 2024.

LEGISLATION VETOED BY GOVERNOR STITT

Noxious Weeds: [HB 3186](#) by Rep. Kenton Patzkowsky (R-Balko) and Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) added musk thistles, Scotch thistles, poison hemlock and Kudzu as a noxious weed. It would have been the duty of every public, private or corporate landowner to treat, control, or eradicate these thistles, poison hemlock, and Kudzu growing on any property owned by the landowner.

The [veto message](#) is as follows: Pursuant to the power vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution, I have vetoed House Bill 3186.

HB 3186 would add poison hemlock and Kudzu to the list of noxious weeds that are designated as a public nuisance in all counties across the state and would mandate that every landowner treat, control, or eradicate these noxious weeds. Failure of a landowner to treat, eradicate, or control all noxious weeds may subject the landowner to legal action, including the imposition of a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 for each violation per day.

Noxious weed control is a worthy endeavor, but I would prefer to entrust it to individual landowners rather than the environmental state.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 3186.

Water Wells/Metering: [HB 3194](#) by Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) authorized OWRB to require all water wells requiring a permit to take and use groundwater from OWRB be equipped with water well flow meters or an alternative measuring system as defined by the Board. Such measuring systems would remain on the well and be in proper operating condition at all times when groundwater is being produced. Data from the measuring system would be utilized for the annual groundwater use report. OWRB may have also required that the applicant report the reading or such meters or alternative measuring system at reasonable intervals. Beginning January 1, 2025, a five-year allocation of the maximum yield of the basin or subbasin may have been approved for a regular permit. An applicant for a five-year allocation was required to submit annual usage as determined by a water well flow meter and pay the annual permit fee. If OWRB approves the permit, the applicant may exceed the maximum annual yield in any year of the five-year allocation; provided, the applicant shall adhere to the cumulative maximum annual yield for the basin or subbasin over the five-year period.

The [veto message](#) is as follows: Pursuant to the power vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution, I have vetoed House Bill 3194.

House Bill 3194 is government overreach at its finest. House Bill 3194 is an unfunded mandate which would require all permitted water wells to be equipped with a water meter that will cost thousands of dollars per meter. While forcing water meters on Oklahomans may seem innocuous, it is undoubtedly a violation of private landowners' rights and emboldens the government to continue down that path.

For this reason, I have vetoed House Bill 3194.

Law Enforcement/Youthful Offenders/Eluding Officers: [SB 423](#) by Sen. Adam Pugh (R-Edmond) and Rep. John George (R-Newalla) provided that any person 15, 16, or 17 years of age who is charged with eluding a peace officer would be in violation of certain provisions of 21 O.S. Section 540A and be held accountable as a youthful offender.

The [veto message](#) is as follows: Pursuant to the power vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution, I have vetoed Senate Bill 423.

Senate Bill 423 would allow minors charged with aggravated eluding of a police officer to be held accountable as youthful offenders. Right now, minors charged with aggravated eluding are held accountable as a juvenile, which means they are punished less severely.

While I do not condone eluding, this crime, although dangerous, does not belong on a list alongside second-degree murder, kidnapping, rape by instrumentation, or forcible sodomy.

For this reason, I vetoed Senate Bill 423.

Volunteer Firefighter Retirement: [SB 453](#) by Sen. Jessica Garvin (R-Duncan) and Rep. Anthony Moore (R-Clinton) sets the maximum amount of compensation a volunteer firefighter may earn to Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty-nine Dollars and sixty-nine cents (\$9,939.69) per year and still be considered a volunteer firefighter. Volunteer firefighters who retire on and after the effective date of this act shall receive a monthly pension in the amount of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) for each year of credited service not to exceed thirty (30) years. The bill adds an amendment to the Oklahoma Pension Legislation Actuarial Analysis Act (OPLAAA) defining the benefit increase as non-fiscal.

The [veto message](#) is as follows: Pursuant to the power vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution, I have vetoed Senate Bill 453.

I have the deepest appreciation and regards for those who risk their lives to protect our communities, and I will continue to advocate for them. Senate Bill 453 is a continuation of a slippery slope that I warned of in my veto message for Senate Bill 102. The fiscal insolvency of California's pension system stands as a stark warning for putting the short-term benefit of some first responders ahead of the long-term security of them all.

Fiscal discipline is always difficult, especially in seasons of economic growth. But we must remain vigilant to ensure that future generations of Oklahomans experience the same prosperity we enjoy now.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 453.

AG Duties/Human Trafficking: [SB 1649](#) by Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) and Rep. Jon Echols (R-OKC) modified the duties of the Attorney General to include the following duties: maintain data related to human trafficking and to assist law enforcement, social service agencies, and victim services programs in identifying and supporting victims of human trafficking; enter into memoranda of understanding with any state agency, district attorney, or law enforcement entity as necessary to perform the duties and responsibilities of the Attorney General; and initiate and prosecute criminal actions by information or indictment with all authority and responsibility otherwise provided by statute to district attorneys. The bill also repealed Section 18b of Title 74.

The [veto message](#) is as follows: Pursuant to the power vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution, I have vetoed Senate Bill 1649.

As an initial matter, I do not take issue with the provision of Senate Bill 1649 allowing the Attorney General a greater role in preventing human trafficking, and I stand ready to support legislation to that limited effect.

However, empowering the attorney general to initiate a criminal action by information-that is, without the involvement of a grand jury-with the same authority as locally elected district attorneys is a bridge too far. As it stands, the attorney general can initiate criminal prosecutions only after a grand jury has heard evidence, albeit just from the prosecutor's perspective, and handed down an indictment. This bill would dramatically expand authority well beyond limits Oklahoma attorneys general have operated within since statehood. The authority to file charges without at least the minimal check of a grand jury-a minimal hurdle that the sitting attorney general says has been abused by predecessors-is rightly entrusted to locally elected district attorneys, not statewide politicians. There is simply no justification to significantly enhance the attorney general's expansive view of other duties vested in that office.

Moreover, the amendatory provision allowing the attorney general to enter into memoranda of understanding with "an...law enforcement entity" raises concerns as well. "Law enforcement entity" is undefined, and it isn't difficult to imagine a scenario in which an attorney general might leverage this provision to cede the state's powers-such as a newfound authority to file criminal charges-to law enforcement entities potentially misaligned with the states and its citizens' interests.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Enrolled Senate Bill 1649.

Sewage Disposal System Installers/DEQ: [SB 1759](#) by Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) and Rep. Ty Burns (R-Pawnee) modified the specified amount needed for required certification to install individual sewage disposal system from ten (10) to one (1) individual sewage disposal systems per calendar year.

The [veto message](#) is as follows: Pursuant to the power vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution, I have vetoed Senate Bill 1759.

Senate Bill 1759 would require persons who install more than a single individual sewage disposal system to first obtain certification from the Department of Environmental Quality. This additional layer of bureaucracy and governmental oversight is unnecessary. Oklahomans need less government, not more.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 1759.