

2024 LEGISLATIVE INTERIM STUDIES

The House has requested 114 interim studies. July 26th is the deadline for approval/disapproval of proposed House Interim Study Requests and assignment of studies to committee. Below is a list of those requested studies that may impact municipal operations:

House Interim Study Requests

Road Safety Study:

H24-011 by Rep. Mickey Dollens

Oklahoma ranks highest in the nation for fatalities resulting from distracted driving and unbuckled motorists. This study examines the underlying reasons for Oklahoma's alarming statistics and assesses effective policies to reduce these preventable deaths. By examining the contributing factors and proposing evidence-based solutions, we seek to enhance road safety and protect the lives of all Oklahomans.

ODMAP Study:

H24-012 by Rep. Mickey Dollens

This study will evaluate the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) to determine its effectiveness in identifying overdose hotspots. By examining the accuracy and impact of ODMAP in displaying overdose incidents, we aim to assess its role in reducing future overdoses in Oklahoma. This study will provide insights into the program's efficacy among other states and potential improvements for better addressing the overdose crisis in our communities.

Vapor Product Access & Use:

H24-020 by Rep. Neil Hays

Review of vapor product access and use.

Impact of Zoning Laws on Affordable Housing:

H24-024 by Reps. Forrest Bennett & Daniel Pae

This interim study would be focused on determining the impact zoning laws have on the development of housing.

Immigration:

H24-025 by Rep. David Hardin

This study will examine the cost of immigration.

Taxes:

H24-026 by Rep. David Hardin

This study will examine ad valorem and personal tax issues in this state.

Solutions for Affordable Housing Crisis: H24-027 by Rep. Mickey Dollens

This interim study will examine the feasibility of utilizing advanced 3D printing technology to construct affordable, sustainable, and customizable homes in Oklahoma. By exploring this cutting-edge approach, we can position our state as a national leader in innovative housing solutions.

Chromium in Water Supply: H24-030 by Rep. Jacob Rosecrants

Present what Chromium 6 is, study why there are high levels in certain areas of the state and discuss what we can do as a state to lessen those levels.

Track & Tax, Surveillance Cameras & Warrantless Searches: H 24-031 by Rep. Tom Gann

To examine the practicality and reliability of a track and tax system. Dealing with public - private partnerships, and the 4th Amendment of the Constitution.

Rural Firefighters: H24-034 by Rep. David Smith

To examine what needs to be done to facilitate recruiting and retention of rural firefighters.

OTA Relocation Projects: H24-037 by Rep. Sherrie Conley

Examine the current guidelines used by OTA in the contractor selection process for relocation projects.

Cancer Screening for Firefighters: H24-039 by Rep. Daniel Pae & Sen. Blake Stephens

Discuss the importance of free and comprehensive cancer screenings for firefighters, as well as the Fighting Chance for Firefighters Act (HB 3573).

Flood Control in Oklahoma: H24-050 by Rep. Suzanne Schreiber

Study current laws on flood control & determine what data is available for flood prediction & statutory/regulatory responsibilities of various oversight bodies &/or local governments if data is available.

Pensions: H24-052 by Reps. Chad Caldwell & Mark Lepak

Examine what the current law says about pensions.

Pension Impact on the Recruitment and Retention of Public Employees:
H24-056 by Rep. Mark Lepak

This study will examine the role public pensions do and don't play in attracting and retaining public employees in a competitive environment, particularly new employees, and whether compensation alternatives without traditional defined benefit programs might be attractive. Includes testimony from local and national experts.

Mental Health Treatment in Oklahoma Jails: **H24-058 by Rep. Jason Lowe**

This study will evaluate mental health treatment in Oklahoma's jails, as well as the benefits of education and recreation for inmates' mental health.

Status of Oklahoma Pensions & Possible Reforms: **H24-059 by Rep. Mark Lepak**

This study reviews the history of Oklahoma's state government pensions, how they are funded, and whether possible reforms should be considered. Includes a review of best practices for state government pension policy, including how other states' experience dealing with pension costs and pension debt might be informative. Includes testimony from local and national experts.

State FARA and Foreign Adversary Divestment Act: **H24-060 by Rep. Collin Duel**

The Foreign Agent Registration Act (FARA) will shine sunlight on foreign influence operations within a state. It requires transparency when an individual in the state acts on behalf of a foreign principal from a country of concern or spreads propaganda for a country of concern. FARA applies only to agents representing countries of concern. However, it provides broader transparency around these individuals by removing the academic, research, religious, commercial, and trade exemptions that exist under federal FARA. The Foreign Adversary Divestment Act (FADA) prohibits state and local pension funds, university endowments, and other investments from being invested in assets domiciled in or controlled by countries of concern.

Examination of Public Corruption Laws: **H24-061 by Rep. John Pfeiffer**

This study will examine how Oklahoma's current laws prevent, enable, or even encourage improper behavior by government actors. We will examine legislative solutions to prevent corruption including malfeasance, negligence, misuse of public funds, fraud, and violations of the central purchasing act.

Distracted Driving v. Drunk Driving:

H24-062 by Rep. Robert Manger

This study will investigate the prevalence and danger of distracted driving, including fatalities. It will explore disparities between penalties of drunk v. distracted driving accidents as well as possible solutions to reduce the prevalence of distracted driving.

Private Activity Bond Allocation:

H24-065 by Rep. Mark Lepak

This study reexamines the percentage allocations, category delineations, authorizing provide, and application timing of the Private Activity Bonds issued pursuant to 62 O.S. § 695.24 to determine if those allocations are being effectively used, and whether changes therein would promote employment, economic development, assure the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens and residents of the state, and otherwise lessen the burdens of government while maximizing participation across all eligible stakeholders.

Impact of ESG:

H24-068 by Reps. Mark Lepak & John Kane

Study of whether and how funds invested by the State of Oklahoma, and its political subdivisions, including funds held in trust, are used by national actors to promote policies harmful to Oklahoma government pension beneficiaries and Oklahoma's economy, as well as policies not aligned with the legislative intent of non-economic statutes. Detailed review of possible revisions to the Energy Elimination Discrimination Act, especially in light of any potential court ruling. Detailed review of possible "Pension Protection" legislation. Includes testimony from local and national experts.

Tax Reform:

H24-069 by Rep. Mark Lepak

Analysis of state revenue collections, their sources, trends and data, and opportunities for further tax reform in Oklahoma.

OTA/STR Payment of Lodging Taxes to Oklahoma Municipalities:

H24-070 by Rep. Eddy Dempsey

Study the effects statewide that the OTA's not collecting municipal lodging taxes in municipalities that have their lodging tax submitted to the municipality.

Taxes on Forestry:

H24-071 by Rep. Eddy Dempsey

Examine impacts specifically on Weyerhaeuser.

Hochatown Highway Construction:

H24-072 by Rep. Eddy Dempsey

Evaluating the various options available for construction concerning the needed highway for Hochatown.

Solid Waste Management Challenges:

H24-075 by Rep. Trish Ranson

The interim study aims to address the following areas: • Challenges associated with recycling and disposal of e-waste • Potential negative impacts of improper e-waste recycling and disposal • Review of the 2008 Oklahoma Computer Equipment Recovery Act 27A O.S. § 2-11-601(Senate Bill 1631) • Public education and outreach on proper disposal of e-waste items • Waste characterization studies at the state and local level • Efficacy of current waste diversion programs and identification of new diversion opportunities particularly with food waste and organic waste • Current state and federal funding opportunities for waste characterization and diversion Targeted waste reduction and material

Understanding the Scope of Fees Charged to the Incarcerated:

H24-079 by Rep. Tammy West

Oklahoma's criminal justice system has increasingly relied upon fees on the incarcerated to fund programs and services. These fees are an unreliable source of funding and in the aggregate hinder the successful reintegration into society of those who have served their time. To get a better understanding of the scope and breadth of fees assessed on the incarcerated, this study will attempt to assemble all of the fees charged by various state agencies and entities. With a better picture of the magnitude of such fees, we hope to work to rightsize the financial burdens placed on the formerly incarcerated.

Modernizing Sales Tax Relief Credit:

H24-082 by Rep. Cyndi Munson

The Oklahoma Legislature passed the Sales Tax Relief Credit in 1990 as a way to offset the cost of sales tax for middle and low-income Oklahoma families. Eligibility for the credit was expanded in 1998, but the amount of the credit has remained frozen at \$40. This study will examine expanding eligibility and modernizing the amount of the credit to ensure fiscal responsibility and greatest benefit to middle and low-income working Oklahomans.

Low Income Housing for Homeless in Rural Areas:

H24-085 by Rep. Trey Caldwell

Study to examine the growing need in rural areas for low-income housing for the homeless.

Air Mobility & Taking Advantage of eVOL Technologies: H24-088 by Reps. Tammy Townley & Nicole Miller

Our interim study will answer three questions: 1. What is Advanced and Regional Air Mobility? 2. What could a vertiport network look like for the State of Oklahoma? What could a Regional Texas/Oklahoma network look like?

Transportation Funding: H24-090 by Rep. Nicole Miller

This study will identify and discuss the existing state revenue inputs to transportation and begin to explore current and future challenges along with the viability of alternate funding sources for building and maintaining transportation infrastructure. • Review the current sources of transportation funding, both state and federal, to the state, counties, cities and towns. • Review the history of how motor fuel tax, once a good substitute for a highway-use tax, has served a vital purpose in the transportation world but is no longer growing with increased use of the system, and will unfortunately be in decline in the future. • Explore other prospects of funding that are intuitive to the transportation needs and uses, and sustainable for the future investment strategies and needs of the State.

Rural 2-Lane Roads/ODOT 8 Year Plan: H24-101 by Reps. Mike Dobrinski, Bob Ed Culver & Eddy Dempsey

The scope of the study is to better understand ODOT's procedures for prioritizing and deciding the extent at which to upgrade and widen our rural 2-lane roads. The study also hopes to discuss options to accelerate the pace of these projects within the 8-year plan.

Senate Interim Study Requests

In the Senate, a total of 39 requests were approved and will now be heard before their respective committees for further consideration. November 1, 2024, is the deadline for Senate Interim Studies to be heard in committee. It is now at the discretion of each committee chair whether to schedule the study. Below is a list of studies that are of interest to cities:

**Boards and Commissions of Law Enforcement Agencies: S024-004
by Sen. David Bullard**

**Merging Civil and Criminal Proceedings in Certain Cases: S024-007
by Sen. Casey Murdock**

Interlocal Cooperative Agreements: by Sen. Kristen Thompson	S024-009
DOT Construction: by Sen. Grant Green	S024-011
Water Usage, Monitoring & Oversight: by Sen. Brent Howard	S024-012
Public Safety- 1st Responder Retention Act - Blue Line Program: by Sen. Darrell Weaver	S024-020
DEQ Standardization of Small Municipality/Rural Water Well Sites: by Sen. Brent Howard	S024-021
Youth Vaping Epidemic and Policy Solutions: by Sen. Carri Hicks	S024-025
License Plate Reader - LPR: by Sen. Darrell Weaver	S024-033
Housing Supply & Demand: by Sen. Julia Kirt	S024-034
Gatekeepers - How to ensure boards and commissions meet their statutory obligation to act in the public's best interest.: by Sen. Julie Daniels	S024-039