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READY, SET, GO...OML PREPARES FOR SESSION TO BEGIN

The first session of the 58th Legislature will convene on February 1st. Recently, lawmakers have filed a combined total of 3,051 pieces of legislation with nearly 500 of those being shell bills (an empty bill that may be used for legislation later.). One theme this year appears to be municipal preemption in a multitudes of areas, but specifically targeting municipal health powers as a result of municipal regulations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The OML Legislative Committee and Board of Directors have been engaged in crafting several pieces of legislation to improve and strengthen municipal government. These topics including taxation reform, addressing public nuisances, marijuana policy and interlock collaboration efforts.

Key pieces of legislation this year are accessing ad valorem assessments for Public Safety Districts to provide funding to police, fire, and emergency medical services, as well as, preventing fraudulent tax exempt purchases which deprive the state and local governments of millions of dollars each year. A full list of the League's priority bills are outlined below.

FUTURE ISSUES

The League's legislative team will provide weekly updates on legislation impacting local governance in the "Advocate" each Thursday during the legislative session. Our objective is to provide you timely information so you can reach out to your local legislators to voice support or opposition on legislation as it moves through the process. If you are not signed up for the Action Alerts, please consider doing so.

Action Alerts will be sent to you on matters of high importance and your involvement in the process makes a HUGE difference in the success of our joint efforts at the Capitol. The Alerts come with the email of legislators to make it easier for you to contact them and voice your opinion. You can sign up for the Action Alerts [here](#).

OML Priority Bills

Competitive Bidding: Support amending the public trust bidding procedure with the Public Competitive Bidding Act.

- [SB 173](#) by Sen. Paul Rosino (This bill has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee.)

Emergency Orders of Detention: Support reforms to current policies within the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services regarding patient transports by law enforcement agencies.

- [SB 3](#) by Sen. David Bullard (This bill has been doubly assigned to Senate Public Safety Committee and then to the Senate Appropriations Committee.)
- [HB 1021](#) by Rep. Rande Worthen and [HB 2877](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace

Firearm Protection: Support legislation authorizing municipal employees to carry a firearm if authorized by a governing body.

- [HB 1897](#) by Rep. Sean Roberts

Gross Production Tax to Municipal Governments: Support modifying the tax code to allocate gross production tax to municipalities for municipal roads.

- [HB 2389](#) by Rep. Brad Boles

Interlocal Purchase: Support creating the streamlined bidding procedure for interlock cooperatives and purchasing cooperatives to achieve the best value or the best terms in contracts.

- [HB 1789](#) by Rep. Daniel Pae

Medical Marijuana: Support amending the Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing act to include volunteer services as labor as safety sensitive positions.

- [SB 459](#) by Sen. Lonnie Paxton (This bill has been assigned to Senate Business, Commerce and Tourism Committee.)

Medical Marijuana: Support amending the Smoking in Public Places and Indoor Workplaces Act to include medical marijuana.

- [SB 445](#) by Sen. Lonnie Paxton (This bill by Sen. Health and Human Services.)

Municipal Nuisance: Support amending Title 11, Section 22-110.1 to allow municipalities the ability to address issues concerning nuisance properties.

- [SB 277](#) by Sen. John Montgomery (This bill has been assigned to the Senate General Government Committee.)

Open Meetings Act/Virtual Meeting: Support allowing boards, commission and other groups the flexibility to conduct meetings by teleconference or videoconference to the extent authorized by state law.

- [SB 1031](#) by Sen. Pro Tempore Greg Treat (This bill has been assigned to the Senate General Government Committee.)

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- [SB 1032](#) by Sen. Pro Tempore Greg Treat (This bill has been assigned to the Senate General Government Committee.)

Open Records: Support amending the Oklahoma Open Records Act by exempting citizen’s personal information from disclosure.

- [SB 970](#) by Sen. Kay Floyd (This bill has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee.)

Public Safety Districts: Allows a municipality the option to vote on the creation of Public Safety Districts.

- [HB 1970](#) by Rep. Jadine Nollan
- [SB 838](#) by Sens. Darrell Weaver and James Leewright and Reps. Jadine Nollan and Kyle Hilbert (This bill has been assigned to the Senate General Government Committee.)

Sales for Resale Permits: Support amending Title 68, Section 1364 establishing an annual “sales for resale” permit to aid in compliance of the sales for resale tax exemptions.

- [HB 2744](#) by Rep. Ross Ford

Advocating for Your Community

This year, several bills have been filed that will have a negative impact on our members, which means we need YOU more than ever. Here are a few tips to help you help us.

Stay vigilant, stay informed. Let OML be your clearing house for legislative information and news. OML sends out many GRIP Alerts to our members to let you know when a pressing issue needs your attention. Pay attention to these emails, as we send them for your benefit. You can also read any version of any bill on the Legislature's website at oklegislature.gov.

Be active. If you cannot be at the Capitol, call, text, and email your legislators. They want to hear from you!

Act swiftly. Often times bills heard in committee or on the floor can come and go very quickly. This means that you have a small window to communicate with your legislators. Same day action is paramount.

Send us your comments. Is a particular issue or bill important to your community? Tell us about it. We also frequently send out bills and ask for comments from you for guidance. These comments remain completely in-house, so do not be afraid to speak up. Your words are safe with us!

Build a coalition. Never has the phrase "strength in numbers" been more relevant. Discuss these issues with community leaders and surrounding municipalities. Collaboration is invaluable in the legislative process.

Build a relationship with your legislators. Legislators appreciate hearing from their constituents back home. They are usually, happy to give their phone numbers and email addresses out to remain in contact with you.

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