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RIGHT TO GARDEN BURIED IN SENATE RULES

On Wednesday, the Senate Rules Committee buried the Right to Garden bill by a [vote](#) of 5 to 6. [HB 2979](#) by Rep. Rick West (R-Heavner) and Sen. George Burns (R-Pollard). This bill created the Right to Garden Act of 2022 which would have prohibited a county, municipality, or other political subdivision from regulating vegetable gardens on residential properties. Any such local ordinance or regulation regulating vegetable gardens on residential properties would have been void and unenforceable.

Thank you again for reacting to the Action Alert that was sent. Your voices were heard!

OML'S MARIJUANA PRIORITIES PASSED

The House Alcohol, Tobacco and Controlled Substances Committee passed all three of OML's medical marijuana priorities. They are as follows:

[SB1367](#) by Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) and Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) creates a penalty for diversion of medical marijuana. A first offense for intentional and impermissible diversion of medical marijuana, concentrate or products by a patient to an unauthorized person is subject to an administrative fine of Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00). After a second offense the individual is subject to an administrative fine of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or a higher amount and shall result in the revocation of the license or licenses of the person. The bill passed by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0.

[SB1704](#) by Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) and Rep. Dick Lowe (R-Amber) increases the penalties for sales, purchases, or transfers of medical marijuana by a medical marijuana business or employees of the medical marijuana business to persons other than those allowed by law occurring within a two-year time to include an initial fine of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for a first violation and a fine of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) for any subsequent violation and allows for the revocation of a license of those with a pattern of diversion. The bill passed by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0.

[SB1841](#) by Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) and Rep. Carol Bush (R-Tulsa) allows OMMA to deny an application or suspend or revoke a medical marijuana business license due to any violation of state law, any violations of a regulation applicable to the business including those adopted or enforced by any state agency including, but not limited to, DEQ, OWRB, Department of Ag, the Corporation Commission, or any local ordinance or regulation applicable to a medical marijuana business or inaccurate reporting or disclosures to municipal governments. The bill passed with the title restored by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0.

GROCERY BILLS CONTINUE TO MOVE

Grocery Sales Tax Exemption: [HB 3349](#) by Speaker Charles McCall (R-Atoka) and Sen. Pro Tempore Greg Treat (R-OKC) creates a two-year sales tax exemption on the sale of groceries, effective July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024. The levy of zero percent (0%) shall not supersede or otherwise affect any local sales taxes levied on sales of food and food ingredients by cities, counties, or other local taxing jurisdictions. Any municipal ordinance imposing a sales tax pursuant to the authority of Section 2701 et seq. of this title or any county resolution or similar measure imposing a sales tax pursuant to the authority of Section 1370 of this title or any municipal ordinance or county resolution or similar measure adopted pursuant to any other provision of law authorizing a local sales tax which is in effect on the effective date of this act shall continue to be applicable to the sale of food and food ingredients notwithstanding the zero rate of sales tax for state purposes upon such items as provided by this subsection. The Oklahoma Tax Commission shall promulgate any necessary rules to implement the provisions of this subsection in accordance with the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee by a [vote](#) of 20 to 0. The title and enacting clause are stricken from the bill. It now moves to the full Senate.

Grocery Sales Tax Exemption/State Sales Tax: [SB 1495](#) by Sen. Pro Tempore Greg Treat (R-OKC) and Speaker Charles McCall (R-Atoka) creates a sales tax exemption for the sale of groceries. The measure provides that the exemption shall not apply to the sale of alcohol, tobacco, or some prepared food. Certain prepared foods as outlined in the measure are eligible for the exemption. The bill provides for a tax of zero percent (0%) to be levied upon sales of food and food ingredients. The state sales tax rate of zero percent (0% levied upon sales of food and food ingredients shall not apply to any sales tax levied by a city or town, county, or any other jurisdiction in the state.

The bill passed the House Rules Committee by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the full House. The title is off the bill.

BILL MOVES TO GOVERNOR STITT'S DESK

Open Records/Law Enforcement Recordings: [SB 968](#) by Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Sheila Dills (R-Tulsa) amends 51 O.S. Section 24A.8 impacting access to law enforcement audio or video recordings that depicts death of a law enforcement officer acting in the course of his/her official duties including any related acts or events

immediately preceding or subsequent to the acts causing or related to the death. The video may be released if the court finds that the public interest or the interest of an individual outweighs the reason for denial. Family members of the deceased officer may view the audio or video of the officer's death. Nothing shall prohibit prosecutors and defense attorneys from access to such audio or video recordings or the use of such videos in a legal proceeding.

The bill passed the House on Monday by [vote](#) of 77 to 7.

BILLS ON THE MOVE

Here is a snapshot of bills impacting cities and towns.

Municipal Audit Reform Act of 2022: [HB 1058](#) by Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) and Sen. Zack Taylor (R-Seminole) amends 11 O.S. 17-105 relating to municipal finances by requiring a biennial audit instead of an annual audit for municipalities who make more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) in general revenue and have a population that is less than two thousand five hundred (2,500). Each biennial audit shall cover the two (2) preceding years. The governing body of each municipality may alternatively request a biennial agreed-upon-procedures engagement to be prescribed by the State Auditor and Inspector, developed in collaboration with a representative from a statewide organization that has represented municipal governments for at least fifty (50) years, a representative from an organization that advises or trains municipal clerks and treasurers, and a certified public accountant. Each biennial agreed-upon-procedures engagement shall cover the two (2) preceding years. For engagements performed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the prescribed procedures developed under the terms of this subsection will be utilized on a one-year basis ending June 30, 2024. The procedures shall then be submitted to the Legislature for ratification. If the rules are not ratified by the Legislature on or before December 31, 2023, the Municipal Audit Reform Act of 2022 shall sunset and be repealed as a matter of law. Agreed-upon procedures required under this act shall be performed in accordance with the applicable attestation standards of The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The municipal income requirements shall not include income of any public trust established under 60 O.S. Section 176 through 180.4 with a municipality as the beneficiary of the trust; provided, that income from trusts established principally for the purpose of operating electric, water, wastewater, and sanitation utilities shall be included for purposes of the municipal income requirements. In addition, 11 O.S. Section 17-107 is amended altering current law when a municipality does not file a copy of its audit or agreed-

upon-procedures report as provided in Section 17-105 with the creation of the Special Investigative Unit Auditing Revolving Fund. This Fund consists of monies received by the State Auditor and Inspector from funds withheld from a municipalities allocations of gasoline taxes as provided in 11 O.S. Section 17-107. The funds are authorized for use in offsetting expenses incurred from special investigative audit activities relating to municipal government. Finally, 11 O.S. Section 17-108 is repealed.

The bill passed the Senate Rules Committee by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Law Enforcement/Background Checks: [HB 1118](#) by Rep. Rick West (R-Heavner) and Sen. Warren Hamilton (R-McCurtain) amends 70 O.S. 3311 by providing that no person who is a permanent resident alien shall serve as a police officer. This does not apply to officers who are currently actively employed.

The bill passed the Senate Rules Committee by a [vote](#) of 9 to 2. The bill moves to the full Senate.

REC/Utility Easements: [HB 1123](#) by Rep. Logan Phillips (R-Mounds) and Sen. James Leewright (R-Bristow) is new law authorizing any easement owned, held, or otherwise used by a rural electric cooperative for electric services may also be used by the cooperative or its wholly owned subsidiary or other broadband provider, for the purpose of supplying high-speed broadband service. No class action lawsuit may be maintained against a REC or an Approved Broadband Provider in a suit for trespass or inverse condemnation based on a claim of expanded use of an easement where the broadband facilities are located on these easements. The bill specifies specific damages.

The bill passed the Senate Business, Commerce & Tourism Committee by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Crime/Assault of Code Enforcement Officer: [HB 1134](#) by Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) and Sen. Zack Taylor (R-Seminole) is a new law providing that any person who without justifiable or excusable cause and with intent to do bodily harm, commits any assault, battery or assault and battery upon a municipal or county code official is guilty of a misdemeanor for the first offense and a felony for a second offense. The code official must be in the lawful performance of his/her duty. "Code official" means any code enforcement official, zoning official, health official, building official or deputies of the official.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 12 to 9. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Roads/HMMWVs: [HB 1136](#) by Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) and Sen. Cody Rogers (R-Tulsa) is new law requiring High-mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs) shall be titled and registered via the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act. HMMWVs may be operated on the roadways of this state and shall comply with all traffic regulations and rules of conduct for the operation of motor vehicles on the roadways of this state.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Agricultural Structures and Equipment/Unincorporated Areas: [HB 1512](#) by Rep. Dell Kerbs (R-Shawnee) and Sen. Roland Pederson (R-Burlington) Except as otherwise provided by law as of the effective date of this act, standards for erection, installation, and use of structures and equipment used for care and handling of livestock, poultry facilities, and planting of agricultural crops, except medical marijuana, shall only be subject to regulation by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry. This subsection shall only apply to all entities who purport to regulate the erection, installation, and use of structures and equipment for care and handling of livestock, poultry, and planting of agricultural crops, except medical marijuana, in unincorporated areas.

The bill passed the Senate Agriculture & Wildlife Committee by a [vote](#) of 13 to 1. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Food Truck Regulations: [HB 2010](#) by Rep. Tammy Townley (R-Ardmore) and Sen. John Montgomery (R-Lawton) creates definitions for "mobile food establishment", "mobile push cart", "mobile retail food establishment", "mobile food vendor", "mobile food vending", "food vending vehicle", "local authority", "public property", "temporary mass gathering", and "nonobstructive spot inspection". A mobile food vendor that seeks to operate in a county with a population of more than four hundred thousand (400,000) that is governed by a city-county health department shall obtain a food establishment license from the local authority which has the population over four hundred thousand (400,000). A food establishment license shall permit the mobile food vendor to operate in any local authority's jurisdiction upon the local authority's recognition of the license, the issuance of any relevant local license not in

conflict with this act, and the vendor's compliance with all other municipal provisions not in conflict with this act. A local authority may not prohibit a vendor from lawfully operating in its jurisdiction if they hold a food establishment license and is compliance with all state and local laws necessary to comply with state regulations. Using a food truck at a fundraising event does not require a food establishment license. Mobile food vendors with a food establishment license shall follow all state and local laws and regulations governing operations in the jurisdiction where the vendor is operating that are not in conflict with this act. A mobile food vendor must provide a copy of its state license to the local authority before operating in the local jurisdiction. The local authority must recognize a lawful and valid state license and authorize the mobile food vendor to operate in its jurisdiction within five (5) business days of receipt of the state license and verification of compliance with local regulations. In relation to a mobile food vendor's operations, a local authority may: restrict the operation of a noisemaking device that exceeds seventy-five (75) decibels measured at twenty-three (23) feet from the food vending vehicle during certain hours of the day; restrict a vendor from operating in a public park or require a special permit and payment of fees to operate in a public park; prohibit a vendor from blocking or restricting ingress on private property; develop a metered parking pass for a fee that permits a vendor to operate from metered parking spaces for longer than the vendor would be permitted; investigate reports of foodborne illnesses; report vendors violations to the Department of Health; issue citations and penalties for violations of state and local laws; and adopt and enforce other regulations in conformity to municipal powers that are not inconsistent with this act. There are several issues that a local authority is prohibited from doing such as prohibiting a vendor from operating if that vendor follows this act. If a vendor has been notified of a possible suspension or revocation, they may request an administrative hearing. A local authority is not required to adopt a program regulating mobile food vendors or to modify its existing program. This act shall not impede the State Department of Health or local authority in any investigation of foodborne illness.

The bill passed the Senate Business, Commerce & Tourism Committee by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Medical Marijuana/Grower Licenses: [HB 2179](#) by Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) and Sen. Jessica Garvin (R-Duncan) separates the medical marijuana grower license into categories for indoor grow facilities, greenhouse or light deprivation grow facilities, or outdoor grow

facilities with eight (8) tiers in each category. The fee for the first tier of each category of grow facility is Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) and increase based on square footage of each facility.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee by a [vote](#) of 17 to 2. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Firefighter Pension and Retirement System: [HB 2487](#) by Rep. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) and Sen. Zack Taylor (R-Seminole) provides that members of the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System (OFPRS) whose first date of employment was on or after November 1, 2013, are eligible for their normal retirement date after completing twenty (20) years of credited service. Any member of OFPRS who receives annual compensation for serving as an active volunteer firefighter is a paid firefighter, other than reimbursement of expenses more than five and a half (5.5) times the annual pension benefit paid to a retired volunteer firefighter with twenty (20) years of credited service.

The bill passed Senate Appropriations Committee by a [vote](#) of 21 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Police Pension/Disability Benefits: [HB 2745](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Adam Pugh (R-Edmond) requires the Police Pension and Retirement System when computing the disability benefit, to use the compensation paid to the highest paid nonsupervisory patrol officer in the employment of the municipality which employs the member who becomes disabled according to the standards prescribed by this paragraph or a one hundred percent (100%) disability based on the member's final average salary whichever computation results in the highest benefit.

The bill passed Senate Appropriations Committee with by a [vote](#) of 19 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

OPERS/Military and EMS Personnel: [HB 2758](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) requires military police officers and emergency medical services personnel receive the hazardous duty multiplier in the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System. Any person who contributes to the System as a military police officer or as an emergency medical service personnel, who retires under normal retirement of early retirement, shall have retirement benefits for each year of full-time-equivalent participating service as a military police officer or emergency medical service personnel computed on two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the final average compensation based upon those years as a military police officer or emergency service personnel,

and any years in excess of twenty (20) years as a military police officer or emergency medical service personnel or years credited to the members shall be calculated for retirement purposes at two percent (2%) of the final average compensation of the member multiplied by the number of years of service. It requires a monthly pension to be paid on behalf of any military police officer or emergency medical service personnel hired on or after Nov. 1, 2022, who is killed or mortally wounded during the performance of their duties. It sets employee contributions to OPERS at eight percent (8%) of allowable compensation for military police officers and licensed emergency medical personnel employed for the first time on or after Nov. 1, 2022.

The bill passed Senate Appropriations Committee with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 18 to 1. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Environment/Poultry Feeding Operations/Nutrient Management: [HB 2983](#) by Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) requires every poultry feeding operation to meet standards set by administrative rules, rather than standards set by the USDA Department of Natural Resources Conservation Service, and directs the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry to promulgate emergency rules for land application of poultry waste.

The bill passed Senate Appropriations Committee with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 17 to 1. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Medical Marijuana Packaging: [HB 3019](#) by Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) and Sen. James Leewright (R-Bristow) allows medical marijuana packaging to be clear to allow licensed medical marijuana patients and licensed medical marijuana caregivers the ability to view the product inside the container, so long as the container is child-resistant. The measure also allows dispensaries to put medical marijuana products in an “exit package” which means an opaque bag provided at the point of sale. Labels on containers shall include a warning that states the following: “For use by licensed medical marijuana patients only”, and “Keep out of reach of children”.

The bill passed the Senate Business, Commerce & Tourism Committee by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Municipal Road Drilling Activity Revolving Fund: [HB 3037](#) by Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) and Sen. Mark Allen (R-Spiro) creates the Municipal Road Drilling Activity Revolving Fund. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023,

and for each fiscal year thereafter, there shall be apportioned Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) to the Municipal Road Drilling Activity Revolving Fund for use by municipalities to repair roads as prescribed pursuant to the requirements of Section 2 of this act. The monies in the Municipal Road Drilling Activity Revolving Fund shall be allocated by ODOT only to municipalities having a population of less than fifteen thousand (15,000) persons or most recent population estimate to repair damage to municipal roads caused by or reasonably caused by increased use of such roads resulting from oil or gas drilling activity. A municipality seeking funds must make the initial application to ODOT no later than May 1, 2023. A municipality is required to provide twenty-five percent (25%) of the total project costs to be eligible for the funds.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee by a [vote](#) of 18 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Strategic Industrial Development Enhancement Tax Credit: [HB 3081](#) by Speaker Pro Tempore. Kyle Hilbert (R-Depew) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) creates a strategic industrial development enhancement tax credit. The Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC) is authorized to promulgate rules, forms, and regulations necessary to implement and administer provisions of this section of this law and certify the tax credit amount generated by each qualifying project annually. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce is required to promulgate rules to permit verification of the eligibility of a qualifying project for the purpose of claiming the credit. The rules must provide for the approval of the qualified economic development expenditures prior to commencement of a project and provide a certificate of verification upon completion of a project that uses qualified economic development expenditures. The certificate of verification shall satisfy all requirements of OTC pertaining to the eligibility of the eligible taxpayer claiming the credit.

The bill passed Senate Appropriations Committee by a [vote](#) of 18 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Firearms/Contracts: [HB 3144](#) by Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) specifies the types of contracts that governmental entities may have with companies who provide ammunition, firearms, and firearm accessories if the contract is between a governmental entity and a company with at least ten (10) full-time employees and has a value of at least One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00). A governmental entity may not enter a contract with a company unless the contract contains a written verification that it does not have a practice, policy,

guidance, or directive that discriminates against a firearm entity or firearm trade association and will not discriminate during the term of the contract against a firearm entity or firearm trade association. It does not apply to a governmental entity that contracts with a sole-source provider or does not receive a bid from a company that is able to provide the written verification. OMES is giving the authority to provide oversight of and advice to governmental entities that may be subject to this act.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee with the enacting clause stricken by a [vote](#) of 7 to 1. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Medical Marijuana/Moratorium on Licenses: [HB 3208](#) by Rep. Rusty Cornwell (R-Vinita) and Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) allows the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA) to declare and establish a moratorium on processing and issuing new medical marijuana business licenses for an amount of time OMMA deems necessary. This does not apply to the renewal of a medical marijuana business license for a dispensary, processor, or commercial grower. The bill was amended to allow the Executive Director of OMMA to terminate the moratorium at any time prior to August 1, 2024, if the Director determines that all pending licensing reviews, inspections, or investigations have been completed by OMMA.

The bill passed the Senate Business, Commerce & Tourism Committee with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 9 to 2. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Law Enforcement/Stalking and Protective Orders: [HB 3286](#) by Rep. Jacob Rosecrants (D-Norman) and Sen. Micheal Bergstrom (R-Adair) increases the penalties for stalking from a misdemeanor to a felony and increases punishment. The bill modifies the definition of "course of conduct" as used in determining the crime of stalking. Whenever a law enforcement agency receives a complaint of stalking and finds that stalking has occurred, the agency is required to provide a copy of a Stalking Warning Letter to the accused. The bill also adds "crime victim" to the list of persons that it is considered harassment to make their personally identifiable information public in a manner intended to threaten, intimidate, or harass. The adult victim of a crime is allowed to seek relief under the provisions of the Protection from Domestic Abuse Act. The bill requires every ex parte or final protective order to be entered into the National Crime Information Center database.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee by a [vote](#) of 18 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Grocery Tax Relief Credit: [HB 3353](#) by Speaker Charles McCall (R-Atoka) and Sen. Mark Allen (R-Spiro) increased the sales tax relief credit for tax years 2022 through 2024 and modify the eligibility requirements.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee by a [vote](#) of 18 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Oklahoma Broadband Expansion Act: [HB 3363](#) by Speaker Charles McCall (R-Atoka) and Sen. Pro Tempore Greg Treat (R-OKC) creates the Oklahoma Broadband Expansion Act. The Oklahoma Broadband Governing Board is created to oversee the creation of the Oklahoma Broadband Office. Effective June 30, 2028, the Board shall terminate. The Board shall utilize the year prior to their termination date for the purpose of ceasing the Board's affairs. The bill also establishes a State Broadband Grant Program and Revolving Fund and repeals the State Broadband Deployment Grant Program and Fund.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 20 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Open Meeting Act/Teleconferencing and Videoconferencing: [HB 3415](#) by Rep. Daniel Pae (R-Lawton) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) defines "public health emergency" to mean a situation where the circumstances lead state or local elected officials, as applicable in this act, to determine a risk of substantial death or harm to the population of the state or a particular applicable political subdivision." The definition of "videoconference" is modified to include the capability for public comment. Members participating remotely may do so from any fixed location, and the meeting shall be open to the public in person in a public place unless emergency provisions are triggered as outlined in the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. Except for those communications made pursuant to a lawfully convened executive session, no private electronic communications concerning public business may occur during a public meeting by members of the governing body. Each public meeting is required to have minutes prepared in compliance with state and local law. Meetings are to be public and must indicate if the meeting includes electronic or in-person participation, including the electronic source that may be utilized to access the meeting. The requirement of an in-person meeting location for the purposes of conducting a public meeting as outlined in this section shall be suspended statewide during a state of emergency declared by the Governor to respond to the threat of the public's peace, health and safety, or during a locally declared state of emergency declared by a mayor, school board president, or chairman

of a board of county commissioners whereby such locally declared state of emergency shall not continue for more than thirty (30) days without ratification of the respective public body. Public bodies are permitted to conduct an executive session by teleconference or videoconference to the extent a quorum is present in compliance with the provisions of this act.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Water Economic Impact Study: [HB 3636](#) by Rep. Eddy Dempsey (R-Valliant) and Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) creates a revolving fund for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to be designated as the "Oklahoma Water Economic Impact Study Fund" for the purpose of conducting instream flow studies. Water economic impact studies shall be conducted for the purpose of educating stakeholders on the value of all uses of the particular body of water at the subject of a study. A study conducted pursuant to this act shall have the goals of informing the communities and stakeholders about the protection, conservation, recreational use, and economic development of water resources and to encourage the protection of the rights of the citizens of the state to use water for riparian and domestic use. The water economic impact studies shall only be conducted on the Little River, the Glover River, and the Mountain Fork River.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with the title restored by a [vote](#) of 16 to 2. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Medical Marijuana/Wholesaler: [HB 3634](#) by Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) and Sen. Cody Rogers (R-Tulsa) includes the definition of "medical marijuana wholesaler" to mean an entity licensed to acquire, possess, sell, and distribute medical marijuana products on behalf of another licensed medical marijuana business. It prohibits a medical marijuana wholesaler from including a business which grows, produces, and sells its own marijuana. The bill allows a medical marijuana wholesaler to hold a medical marijuana business license.

The bill passed the Senate Business, Commerce & Tourism Committee with the enacting clause stricken by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Sales Tax Exemption/Veterans Transition Groups: [HB 3649](#) by Rep. Sheila Dills (R-Tulsa) and Sen. Dewayne Pemberton (R-Muskogee) adds an exemption, effective July 1, 2022, from sales tax sales of tangible personal property or services to a nonprofit organization and

which provides support to veterans, active-duty members of the Armed Forces, reservists and members of the National Guard to assist with the transition of civilian life and provides documentation to the Oklahoma Tax Commission that over seventy percent (70%) of its revenue is expended on support for transition to civilian life.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee by a [vote](#) of 18 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Public Trusts/Bidding: [HB 3692](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Sen. Jessica Garvin (R-Duncan) when applicable, requires public trusts to comply with the Public Competitive Bidding Act of 1974. The bill authorizes a public trust to adopt its own or its beneficiary's purchasing policies and procedures for all equipment, supplies, services, and other items not procured pursuant to paragraph 1 of this subsection. Such policies and procedures may include provisions regarding sole source and emergency purchases, cooperative purchasing, purchasing from a state or its beneficiary's contract, and any other provisions necessary to meet the needs of the public trust. Trustees of public trusts operating a hospital who are no elected officials may receive reasonable compensation and reimbursement for actual expenses related to the performance of their duties as trustees. Reasonable compensation is defined as to not exceed a stipend per meeting equal to the regional average for compensation of members of other governmental or nonprofit boards.

The bill passed the Senate Rules Committee by a [vote](#) of 10 to 1. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Public Retirement Systems/Military Service Credits: [HB 3709](#) by Rep. Carol Bush (R-Tulsa) and Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) authorizes prior service credit to members of the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System who served in any branch of the Armed Forces, who was honorably discharged, and began participation in the System after November 1, 2022. The bill also impacts the Retirement System for Justices and Judges, Law Enforcement Retirement System, and Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 18 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Medical Marijuana/Temporary and Annual Licenses: [HB 3734](#) by Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) and Sen. Cody Rogers (R-Tulsa) creates a temporary and annual licensing program for medical marijuana businesses

specified therein. The Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA) shall make available a temporary medical marijuana dispensary, grower license or medical marijuana processor and an annual license. The application fees for the temporary or annual license shall be paid in the amounts provided for in Section 427.14 of Title 63.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 16 to 4. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Law Enforcement/Medical Marijuana/Forfeiture: [HB 3752](#) by Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) and Sen. James Leewright (R-Bristow) makes it unlawful for the owner of real property which has been used for the purpose of growing and harvesting marijuana crops to willfully desert or abandon the real property without first restoring the land to its previous condition. Any person who is convicted shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for a term of one (1) year, by a fine of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) or both. In addition, the court may order the person to reimburse the county for the cost to remediate any damage to the land caused by the property owner. The property is subject to forfeiture if it is used in any manner or part to commit any violation.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee by a [vote](#) of 7 to 2. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Rural Hazard Mitigation Funding: [HB 3819](#) by Rep. Lonnie Sims (R-Jenks) and Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) creates the Oklahoma Disaster Mitigation and Recovery Matching Fund Act. There is an appropriation of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) to the Disaster Mitigation and Recovery Matching Fund. The Department of Commerce shall administer the fund. A voluntary association of Oklahoma local governmental jurisdictions or another legal entity, including a public trust or nonprofit corporation or other entity which performs functions for the benefit of Oklahoma local governmental jurisdictions, is eligible to obtain funding for rural hazard mitigation projects. The governing board of an entity described in subsection A or B of Section 4 of this act, shall develop a plan for the use of available funds for providing matching amounts as required to the terms of applicable federal law to obtain federal funds for the prevention of damage or to repair damages caused by a qualifying hazard. "Qualifying hazard" shall include, but not be limited one or more of the following conditions: high winds, tornadoes, hail, rain, flooding, freezing rain or ice, heavy snow, wildfires, seismic disturbances, or other hazardous conditions that a

Governor's disaster declaration covers. Not later than July 31, each entity shall transmit, in an electronic form created by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, a summary of each project upon which matching funds received by the entity from the Oklahoma Disaster Mitigation and Recovery Matching Fund were expending during the fiscal year ending on the June 30 date. No entity which qualifies for the funds, shall be required to provide matching funds or to provide equivalent value to obtain available funds of funds for planning expenditures. The funds allocated shall not be used for any direct expenditures on salaries, employee benefits, acquisition of real or personal property, or other than the available funding for which the allocated funds may be utilized, or any other purpose.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee by a [vote](#) of 17 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Law Enforcement/Farm Permit: [HB 3822](#) by Rep. Carl Newton (R-Woodward) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) allows any person who is less than seventeen (17) years of age but is at least fourteen (14) years of age and who resides upon a farm in this state or is employed for compensation upon a farm in this state may apply to the Department of Public Safety for a farm permit authorizing such person, while possessing the permit, to operate any Class D motor vehicle. A farm permit entitles a licensee, who is at least fourteen (14) years of age but less than sixteen (16) years of age, to operate the appropriate vehicle while going to or from or in connection with a farm job, employment or other farm-related work, on days while school is in session, over the most direct and accessible route between licensee's residence and school of enrollment for the purpose of attending school or when the licensee is operating a passenger car at any time when accompanied by an adult who is the holder of a valid commercial driver license, Class A, B, C, or D driver license and who is actually occupying a seat beside the driver. The bill sets up specific times of driving. Any conviction shall be considered a moving traffic violation. DPS may, in its discretion, suspend the permit of an individual.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Medical Marijuana/Environmentally Sensitive Area Registry: [HB 3827](#) by Rep. Mike Dobrinski (R-Okeene) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) requires, beginning November 1, 2022, all medical marijuana commercial grower licensees who operate an outdoor medical marijuana production facility to register with the

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry as an environmentally sensitive crop owner. Registration shall provide notice to commercial and private pesticide applicators of the locations of medical marijuana crops and help minimize the potential for damaging pesticide drift. Medical marijuana commercial grower licensees shall provide their business name, address Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates for all outdoor medical marijuana production facilities, and any other information required by the Department of Ag when registering with the Environmentally Sensitive Area Registry.

The bill passed the Senate Business, Commerce & Tourism Committee by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Motorized Bicycles and Scooters: [HB 3852](#) by Rep. Judd Strom (R-Copan) and Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) amends the definitions of an electric-assisted bicycle and motorized scooters by removing limitations on vehicles with electric power sources.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Court Costs Compliance Program: [HB 3925](#) by Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) establishes a court cost compliance program effective November 1, 2022. All counties of the state may fully utilize and participate in the court compliance program. The program's purpose is to assist county sheriffs and the courts with the collection of fines, costs, fees, and assessments associated with cases in which a warrant has been issued and the case has been referred to the court cost compliance program. It allows the court to release or recall a warrant with a down payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) and a mutually agreeable monthly payment plan. At the time of sentencing, the court shall inform the defendant of the total amount of all statutory fines, costs, fees, and assessments, if any, to be paid. The bill sets up a process for when an individual is delinquent in paying.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee with the enacting clause stricken by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Rural Water Districts: [HB 4001](#) by Rep. Bob Ed Culver (R-Tahlequah) and Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) requires any corporation borrowing money, securing any indebtedness, or accepting grants from the federal government that entitled the corporation to a protected

service area under 7 U.S.C., Section 1926(b) must first establish a water district under Oklahoma law that will define the protected service area.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

Public Libraries: [HB 4014](#) by Rep. Sherrie Conley (R-Newcastle) and Sen. Micheal Bergstrom (R-Adair) authorizes a parent or legal guardian to request certain information about their child from any library which is in whole or in part supported by public funds including but not limited to public, academic, school, or special libraries.

The bill passed the Senate Education Committee by a [vote](#) of 7 to 2. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Courts/Jurors Fees: [HB 4079](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) increases the fee juror's fee for each day's attendance before any court of record from Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) to Seventy-five Dollars (\$75.00).

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 7 to 1. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Law Enforcement/Mental Health Transport: [HB 4082](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) creates the "Mental Health Transport Revolving Fund". The fund is a continuing fund that may be budgeted and expended by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to carry out the provisions of Section 1-110 of Title 43A. The bill directs the law enforcement agency that made the initial contact within its jurisdiction to be responsible for transporting the individual inside the thirty (30) mile radius. For patients who self-present, arranging transportation of these patients shall be the responsibility of the receiving facility or the Department of Mental Health and Substance Services. The transportation requirements provided shall be considered completed once a connection has been made staff of the health care facility and it is apparent the patient is not presenting a clear threat to the safety of the staff of the receiving facility.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Emergency Management Assistance Compact and Rescue Out of State Deployments Revolving Fund: [HB 4143](#) by Rep. Stan May (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. James Leewright (R-Bristow) creates a revolving fund for the

Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, to be designated the "Emergency Management Assistance Compact and Rescue Out of state Deployments Revolving Fund". The funds may be used for direct reimbursement of participating entities deployed through the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security that is consistent with the federal Emergency Management Assistance Compact Guidelines.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 18 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Law Enforcement/Human Trafficking Response Unit: [HB 4210](#) by Rep. Jeff Boatman (R-Tulsa) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) requires the Oklahoma Attorney General to maintain data related to human trafficking and to assist law enforcement, social service agencies, and private victim services programs in identifying and supporting victims of human trafficking. The Office of the Attorney General the Human Trafficking Response Unit is authorized to maintain data and develop training programs to assist agencies and victims of human trafficking. The Human Trafficking Response Unit is to also create incentive programs to encourage state agencies to attend training programs and review policies, and appropriate targeted funding for victim service programs. The Human Trafficking Response Unit is to publish public service announcements on various media platforms to educate the public about the dangers of human trafficking.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee by a [vote](#) of 17 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Medical Marijuana/Packaging: [HB 4287](#) by Rep. Dean Davis (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) creates the Oklahoma Flower Pre-Packaging Act, which requires all medical marijuana flower-based product sold by processors and growers to dispensaries to be in pre-packaged sizes of not less than one-eighth (1/8) of an ounce to not more than one (1) ounce. The measure also prohibits deli-style sales of medical marijuana.

The bill passed the Senate Business, Commerce & Tourism Committee with the enacting clause stricken by a [vote](#) of 10 to 1. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Law Enforcement/Penalties for Third-Degree Burglary: [HB 4373](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) modifies the elements of burglary in the second degree to add every person who

climbs under, or uses any jack stands or any other item to raise any automobile, in which any property is kept, with intent to steal, steal any property attached thereto, or commit any felony. The term property includes but is not limited to tires, wheels, and catalytic converters. Burglary in the third-degree is punishable by a fine not exceeding Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections or both fine and imprisonment.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 15 to 3. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Law Enforcement/Protection from Domestic Abuse Act: [HB 4374](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) creates the Stephen Bernius Memorial Act. It expands the scope of "domestic abuse" as defined under the Protection from Domestic Abuse Act. It modifies the definition of "family or household members" to include persons not related by blood or marriage living in the same household. It defines "living in the same household" as a person who regularly resides in the same, single dwelling unit, persons who resided in the same single-dwelling unit within the past year, or persons who individual lease agreements whereby each person has his or her own private bedroom and shares the common areas.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Healthy Soil Program Act: [HB 4412](#) by Rep. Dick Lowe (R-Amber) and Sen. Roland Pederson (R-Burlington) creates the Healthy Soil Program Act to promote and support farming and ranching systems that increase soil organic matter, aggregate stability, microbiology and water retention. The bill establishes the Healthy Soil Program to be administered by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 18 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Law Enforcement/Obscene Material: [SB 9](#) by Sen. Rob Standridge (R-Norman) and Rep. Justin Humphrey (R-Lane) sets the standard for obscenity applied in subparagraphs b and c of this section of law to not apply when an adult knowingly provides material that qualifies as obscene, as defined in this section, to a minor.

The bill passed the House Judiciary - Criminal Committee by a [vote](#) of 7 to 2. The bill moves to the full House.

Firearms/Felons: [SB 186](#) by Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) and Rep. Sean Roberts (R-Hominy) amends 21 O.S. Section 1283 impacting the prohibition on felons' possession of specific firearms including sawed-off rifles. The bill removes the provision that prohibits a person who was adjudicated as a delinquent child or a youthful offender from residing in a home that has a firearm.

The bill passed the House Public Safety Committee by a [vote](#) of 7 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Pensions/Fire Chiefs: [SB 897](#) by Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) and Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) amends the Firefighter Pension System by adding language to 11 O.S. Section 29-102 which impacts fire chiefs. A person receiving an accrued retirement benefit pursuant to Section 49-106 of this title may serve as the fire chief of a paid or combination fire department in a municipality with a population of twenty thousand (20,000) or less, according to the latest Federal Decennial Census, provided such person meets the qualifications to serve as a paid fire chief, including but not limited to the provisions of subsection A of this section. Such paid fire chief and participating municipality shall pay contributions to the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System, pursuant to Section 49-122 of this title, to the extent such fire chief does not have thirty (30) years of credited service. No additional credited service will be accrued during which such retired firefighter serves as fire chief of a participating municipality. Fire chiefs serving pursuant to subsection B of this section shall not receive a disability pension provided for in Section 49-109 of this title, nor shall they be eligible for such disability benefits arising during the period of service described in subsection B of this section. A person serving in the capacity of fire chief as of the date such person retires from the System shall not be permitted to become reemployed in the capacity of fire chief by such municipality after the date of the member's retirement. The bill passed the House Banking, Financial Services & Pensions Committee by a [vote](#) of 6 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

Law Enforcement/Statute of Limitations: [SB 974](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Rep. Daniel Pae (R-Lawton) specifies that "discovery" means the date that a physical or sexually related crime involving a victim eighteen (18) years of age or older is reported to a law enforcement agency. No prosecution shall be based on the memory of the victim that has been recovered through

psychotherapy unless there is some evidence independent of such repressed memory. Anyone that knowingly and willfully makes a false claim to be referred to local law enforcement for investigation and, upon conviction, being guilty of a felony. Prosecution for the crimes of human trafficking to be prosecuted within three (3) years after discovery of the crime. For purposes of this subsection, "discovery" means the date upon which the crime is reported to a law enforcement agency.

The bill passed the House Judiciary - Criminal Committee by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Law Enforcement/Service Animals: [SB 1223](#) by Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) and Rep. Dustin Roberts (R-Durant) creates a crime for any person who is not an individual with a disability or is not trained to assist individuals with disabilities who uses a service animal in an attempt to gain treatment or benefits as an individual with a disability, is upon conviction, guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). A public accommodation may post a sign inside or outside of the place stating: it is a crime under state law to misrepresent an animal as a service animal, and the penalty. The penalty for cockfighting, providing a building for purposes of holding a cockfight and any act or service in the furtherance of or to facilitate a cockfight is lowered from a felony to a misdemeanor. The penalty for the misdemeanor convictions is a fine of not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). For a second conviction the fine is One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). A third or subsequent conviction is a fine of not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00). The bill lowers the penalty for the following crimes from a felony to a misdemeanor: theft of exotic livestock; purchasing or receiving any deceased human body; altering the appearance of livestock; use of sling shot; possession of sawed-off weapons; obtaining property by means of false pretense; falsely personate public officer; operation of a whiskey still; hiring private person to guard with arms without permit; repair of steam boiler under pressure; possession of a vehicle without consent; practice of dental hygienist without registration; and bail jumping.

The bill passed the House Criminal Justice & Corrections Committee by a [vote](#) of 3 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

Political Subdivisions Opioid Abatement Grant Act: [SB 1275](#) by Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) and Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) revises the criteria for allocating the grant awards to eligible participants. The bill also

provides for the reimbursement of attorney fees and allowable expenses directly related to opioid litigation incurred as part of legal services agreements entered before May 21, 2020. The initial opioid grant awards shall be listed in an opioid grant award distribution table adopted by the Board.

The bill passed the House Alcohol, Tobacco and Controlled Substances Committee by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

DEQ/Water Quality Standards: [SB 1325](#) by Sen. Julie Daniels and Rep. Anthony Moore (R-Clinton) transfers authority to administer Oklahoma Water Quality Standards from Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The bill passed the House Energy & Natural Resources Committee by a [vote](#) of 8 to 2. The bill moves to the full House.

Courts/Fines and Fees: [SB 1458](#) by Sen. Roger Thompson (R-Okemah) and Speaker Pro Tempore Kyle Hilbert (R-Depew) provides that any funds remaining in the A.F.I.S. Fund, Forensic Science Improvement Revolving Fund, Medical Expense Liability Revolving Fund, Drug Abuse Education and Treatment Revolving Fund, and School Investigative Audit Revolving Fund shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund. The bill eliminates several fines and fees charged to offenders when convicted of certain crimes. Funds eliminated by the measure are currently funded using the eliminated fines and fees.

The bill passed the House Judiciary - Criminal Committee with the enacting clause stricken by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Sales Tax Exemption/Feminine Hygiene Products: [SB 1499](#) by Sen. Jessica Garvin (R-Duncan) and Rep. Cynthia Roe (R-Lindsay) creates a sales tax exemption on sales of feminine hygiene products to a nonprofit organization whose primary and principal purpose is to provide feminine hygiene products free of charge directly to individuals in need thereof and/or to organizations for distribution to those in need of such products. The bill defines "feminine hygiene products".

The bill passed the House A&B Committee with the enacting clause stricken by a [vote](#) of 27 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Emergency Medical Services: [SB 1515](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Rep. Mike Osburn (R-Edmond) requires a certified emergency medical response agency to only provide transport upon the approval by the appropriate online medical control at the time of transport, except during a natural or manmade disaster, a pandemic, or civil unrest, then a patient must be transported to the nearest facility. The bill states emergency ambulance transportation is not required when a patient's apparent condition does not warrant emergency ambulance transport.

The bill passed the House Public Safety Committee by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Public Buildings/Retainage: [SB 1520](#) by Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) and Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) specifies that at any time the contractor has completed in excess of fifty percent (50%) of the total contract amount, the retainage shall be reduced to two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the amount earned to date once the public agency has determined that satisfactory progress is being made. A public construction contract shall provide for partial payment based upon work completed. The contract shall provided that up to five percent (5%) of all partial payments made shall be withheld as retainage. At any time, the contractor has completed in excess of fifty percent (50%) of the total contract amount, the retainage shall be reduced to two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the amount earned to date once the owner or owner's duly authorized representative has determined that satisfactory progress is being made. When the work of the subcontractor has been determined by the holder to be at least fifty percent (50%) complete, the retainage shall be reduced to two and one-half (2.5%) of the original contract amount.

The bill passed the House General Government Committee by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Law Enforcement/Street Legal Utility Vehicles: [SB 1528](#) by Sen. Joe Newhouse (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Jeff Boatman (R-Tulsa) authorizes street-legal utility vehicles that are registered as a motor vehicle to be operated on the streets and highways of this state. However, when traveling on U.S. highways street-legal utility vehicles are restricted to those posted at fifty (50) miles per hour or less. Street-legal utility vehicles shall not be operated on the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

The bill passed the House Transportation Committee by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Court Fines and Fees: [SB 1532](#) by Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) and Rep. John Talley (R-Stillwater) directs the courts to waive all fines and fees including any payments made prior to the effective date of this act. On or after November 1, 2022, the court shall waive all outstanding fines, court costs, and fees in a criminal case for any person who has made installment payments on outstanding fines, costs, fees, and restitution ordered by the court on a timely basis for forty-eight (48) months in the previous sixty-month (60) period including any payments made prior to the effective date of this act. To be eligible for a waiver, the person shall have complied with all probation or supervision requirements ordered by the court. On or after November 1, 2022, the court shall waive all outstanding district court or municipal court fines, court costs and fees in a criminal case for any person who has made installment payments.

The bill passed the House Judiciary - Criminal Committee with the enacting clause stricken by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

CLEET: [SB 1537](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Sen. Kevin Matthews (D-Tulsa) and Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) removes the Assistant Director position at the Council on Law Enforcement Education Training (CLEET). The bill adds human trafficking to the list of items to be taught in the basic police courses. CLEET is prohibited from certifying an officer with out-of-state certification if it finds the officer's certification was surrendered by the officer to avoid revocation or other disciplinary actions for the state of origin. Beginning November 1, 2022, peace officers and reserve peace officers must renew their individual certifications every three (3) years by providing to CLEET proof of successful completion of all required continuing education hours. The bill provides a definition of "moral turpitude" to include any of the following crimes: fraud, theft, larceny, embezzlement, bribery, perjury, false declaration, or driving under the influence of alcohol or other controlled dangerous substances.

The bill passed the House Public Safety Committee by a [vote](#) of 7 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Autonomous Vehicles: [SB 1541](#) by Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) and Rep. Nicole Miller (R-Edmond) authorizes a person to operate a fully autonomous vehicle without a human driver provided that the automated driving system is engaged, and the vehicle meets certain conditions outlined in the measure. Prior to operating the vehicle, the person must submit a law enforcement interaction plan to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) that shows law enforcement how to communicate with a fleet support specialist who is available during the times

the vehicle is in operation, how to safely remove the vehicle from the roadway, how to recognize whether the vehicle is in autonomous mode, and any additional information the manufacturer or owner deems necessary. Such persons must also submit proof of financial satisfactory to DPS that the fully autonomous vehicle is covered by insurance or proof of self-insurance of at least One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) which will satisfy the Compulsory Insurance Law. If there is an accident involving the vehicle, it must remain at the scene of the accident and the owner must report the accident. The measure also authorizes the use of on demand autonomous vehicles, provided, the use of such a vehicle does not contradict the provisions of the Oklahoma Transportation Network Company Service Act. Commercial vehicles may be used as well. Fully autonomous vehicles must be properly registered in accordance with the Oklahoma Vehicle Licensing and Registration Act. The measure clarifies that the automated system piloting the vehicle shall be considered the driver for the purpose of assessing compliance with applicable traffic or motor vehicle laws.

The bill passed the House Technology Committee by a [vote](#) of 4 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Law Enforcement/Cross-Deputization Agreements: [SB 1565](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) authorizes the Attorney General to cross-deputize police officers of the police department of any municipality or any officer deputized by the county sheriff or a designee subject to an interlocal governmental agreement with the Attorney General's Office in an effort to combine city, county, and state law enforcement efforts and to encourage cooperation between city, county, and state law enforcement officials. It requires liability for the conduct of any municipal police officer cross-deputized under the terms and conditions of an interlocal governmental agreement or any officer deputized by the county sheriff under the terms and conditions of an interlocal governmental agreement to remain the responsibility of the respective employer for that officer.

The bill passed the House Judiciary - Criminal Committee by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

OWRB/Glover River: [SB 1585](#) by Rep. Eddy Dempsey (R-Valliant) and Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) prohibits the Oklahoma Water Resources Board from approving any application nor permit the construction of a dam on Glover River in McCurtain County.

The bill passed the House Energy & Natural Resources Committee by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Oklahoma Turnpike Authority/Report/South Extension Turnpike: [SB 1610](#) by Sen. Rob Standridge (R-Norman) and Rep. Danny Sterling (R-Tecumseh) requires the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA) to prepare a report concerning the proposed construction of the South Extension Turnpike. The study shall include, but not be limited to, the following information: 1. the factors that were considered when determining the route of the South Extension Turnpike; 2. the route was determined to be the most effective route; 3. the impact and effect that the planned route will have on businesses, citizens and private and public property where the route will be implemented; 4. whether any alternative routes were considered and as to why the alternate routes were not chosen; and 5. any other factors relevant to the decision of the location of the South Extension Turnpike considered by the OTA. The reports shall be delivered to the Governor, Pro Tempore, and Speaker at least one hundred and eighty (180) days prior to issuing bonds for the construction of the South Extension Turnpike. Upon the receipt of the report the Legislature may modify the authorization for construction and location of the South Extension Turnpike.

The bill passed the House Transportation Committee with the enacting clause stricken by a [vote](#) of 7 to 2. The bill moves to the full House.

Sales Tax Exemptions/Surviving Spouse: [SB 1670](#) by Sen. Chris Kidd (R-Waurika) and Rep. Toni Hasenbeck (R-Elgin) expands exemption for people qualifying to receive sales tax exemption to include the surviving spouse of a person who is determined by the United States Department of Defense or any branch of the United States military to have died while in the line of duty if the spouse has not remarried.

The bill passed the House A&B Committee by a [vote](#) of 23 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Medical Marijuana/Water Sources: [SB 1693](#) by Sen. Micheal Bergstrom (R-Adair) and Rep. Josh West (R-Grove) requires a commercial grower applicant or licensee, prior to engaging in a commercial growing operation, either: 1) acquire a water use permit from OWRB if the commercial growing operation uses groundwater or water from an Oklahoma stream; or 2) acquire an official statement of permission from the county, municipality, or other political subdivision that provides water if the commercial growing operation uses

rural or municipal water and register the statement with OMMA. Upon failure of a commercial grower licensee to register the water source of a commercial growing operation with OMMA, or if applicable, receive a permit by OWRB after ninety (90) days following license renewal, OMMA shall revoke the commercial license.

The bill passed the House Alcohol, Tobacco and Controlled Substances Committee by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Medical Marijuana Growing Operations/Bonds: [SB 1697](#) by Sen. Darcy Jech (R-Kingfisher) and Rep. Anthony Moore (R-Clinton) requires all applicants for a medical marijuana business license seeking to operate a commercial grow to file along with their application a bond. It makes it unlawful for any holder of a medical marijuana business license to engage in any commercial growing operations in this state without acquiring a bond. The bond shall cover the area of land within the permit area upon which the business licensee will initiate and conduct commercial growing operations. The applicant is required to file with OMMA a bond in the amount of no less than Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) for each license sought or held, with a surety company qualified to do business in this state.

The bill passed the House Alcohol, Tobacco and Controlled Substances Committee by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Medical Marijuana/Setback Requirements: [SB 1726](#) by Sen. James Leewright (R-Bristow) and Speaker Pro Tempore Kyle Hilbert (R-Depew) expands the definition of "schools" to include technology centers as it relates to medical marijuana dispensary and commercial growers to the setback requirements.

The bill passed the House Alcohol, Tobacco and Controlled Substances Committee by a [vote](#) of 9 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

Medical Marijuana/Signage: [SB 1737](#) by Sen. Blake Stephens (R-Tahlequah) and Rep. Kenton Patzkowsky (R-Balko) requires a medical marijuana business to post in a conspicuous location at each entrance of the site of the commercial grow operation. The information to be included on the required sign is as follows: business name; physical address of the licensed business; phone number of the licensed business; and medical marijuana business license number. The required signage shall also comply with county regulations and local ordinances related to the real property where the commercial grow operation is located. Failure to erect the proper signage

in accordance with the provisions of this subsection shall result in immediate revocation of the medical marijuana commercial grower license.

The bill passed the House Alcohol, Tobacco and Controlled Substances Committee with the enacting clause stricken by a [vote](#) of 7 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Golf Courses/Beer and Wine Licenses: [SB 1749](#) by Sen. James Leewright (R-Bristow) and Rep. Marcus McEntire (R-Duncan) authorizes mixed beverage licensees with a licensed premises on a business establishment that meets the classification of a golf course or country club pursuant to the most recently adopted North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) may also sell beer in sealed original packages for on-premises consumption. Sales of more than two (2) sealed packages to one person at one time for on-premises consumption shall not be considered an unlawful inducement to stimulate consumption of alcoholic beverages and patrons may remove sealed original packages from the licensed premises.

The bill passed the House Alcohol, Tobacco and Controlled Substances Committee by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Medical Marijuana/Municipal COC and Occupancy Permits: [SB 1755](#) by Sen. James Leewright (R-Bristow) and Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Mulhall) provides that a license provided by the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana and Patient Protection Act shall not be issued until all relevant local licenses and permits have been issued by the municipality including, but not limited to, an occupancy permit or certificate of compliance. A license cannot be issued until OMMA determines that all necessary inspections and reviews, including, but not limited to, plans reviews, life safety inspections, or compliance inspections, have been completed. The bill allows an applicant to be granted a conditional license if he or she has not received the necessary permits, certificates, or licenses from a municipality. A conditional license does not entitle an applicant to operate or act as a licensee. The bill allows OMMA the authority to approve the application once the applicant has fulfilled all the obligations.

The bill passed the House Alcohol, Tobacco and Controlled Substances Committee with the title restored by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Law Enforcement/Asset Forfeiture: [SB 1763](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Rep. Anthony Moore (R-Clinton) modifies parties eligible to bring forfeiture action from the district attorney or any other state law enforcement agency in the property county of venue as petitioner.

The bill passed the House Judiciary – Civil Committee by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.