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April 14, 2023

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PTSD Passes Senate Committee

HB 2398 by Rep. Neil Hays (R-Muskogee) and Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) passed the Senate Retirement and Insurance Committee on Tuesday after almost five (5) years of negotiations on the subject of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for First Responders. OML is grateful to Sen. Rosino for his efforts to work with us on this issue. OML has always supported first responders and their ability to get treatment for PTSD. The bill helps our first responders and does not place added costs on the Workers' Compensation System.

HB 2398 amends Title 85A O.S. Section 13 authorizing mental injury or illness as a compensable injury, without a physical injury, for a first responder who suffers post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after responding to an emergency. The bill defines "first responder" as a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or emergency medical technician on a full-time basis by a municipality, county, or the State of Oklahoma, or a volunteer firefighter. 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 is entitled to receive compensation which is the greater of the weekly benefit provided in the collective bargaining agreement or according to the policy of the employer, or seventy percent (70%) of the injured employee's average weekly wage not to exceed the state average weekly wage. If the employee has a temporary pension benefit available 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 not to extend beyond fifty-two (52) weeks. If the person who receives benefits for a mental injury or illness not caused by a physical injury who, after reaching maximum medical improvement, is unable to perform the essential functions of their employment and who is not eligible to receive a disability retirement through their pension or retirement system shall be eligible to be awarded permanent disability benefits not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00).

The employer shall provide reasonable and necessary medical treatment for such an injury, subject to the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Schedule, for a period of no longer than one (1) year. The employer is not responsible for medical treatment in the form of prescription medicine in excess of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000). The bill defines "post-traumatic stress disorder" to mean an injury or condition in which a first responder has been exposed to a traumatic event and has experience, witnessed, or was confronted with an event that involved actual or threatened death or serious injury, or a threat to the physical integrity of others, and the response involved fear, helplessness, or horror and is reexperienced in several ways.

The bill also defines "emergency medical technician" and "volunteer firefighter". It also provides that in the event that a Public Safety District is established, a city or town in such District, that incurs a claim relating to PTSD may at the city or town's option, transfer the payment of all or any portion to the judgment rolls of the geographic area or areas serviced by the department of the injured worker and shall be listed on official publications as "First Responder PTSD". The effective date was moved to January 1, 2024.

This bill was amended passed the Senate Retirement & Insurance Committee on Tuesday, by a [vote](#) of 7 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate floor. If it passes the full Senate, it will have to go back to the House for acceptance or rejection of the Senate amendments.

OML Priorities vs. Latest Legislative Deadline

The majority of OML priority bills continue to move through the Legislative process. While our Sale for Resale bill passed Senate Finance on Monday, this bill was doubly assigned and was not heard in Senate Appropriations prior to this week's deadline.

(OML Priority) Tobacco Regulations/Youth Access: [HB 2165](#) by Rep. Cynthia Roe (R-Lindsay) and Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) requires an individual who is under twenty-one (21) who purchases, receives, or possess a tobacco, nicotine, or vapor product or attempts to purchase any of these products using false proof of age to complete an education or tobacco use cessation program approved by the court. If the violator fails to complete the court ordered program, a fine not to exceed Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) may be imposed or a fine not to exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) may be imposed for subsequent offenses. The violator may also be required to complete a community service program or other appropriate programs or services as the court orders. To ensure all programs and court orders are followed, the court will have jurisdiction over the violator for 12 months. The measure authorizes cities and towns to enact and municipal police offices to enforce ordinances that prohibit and penalize conduct that violates this law.

The bill passed the Senate Health & Human Services Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

(OML Priority) Abandoned Property/Liens: [HB 2361](#) by Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) and Sen. Jessica Garvin (R-Duncan) requires there to be a reserve minimum bid placed in an amount covering all taxes, abatement costs, penalties, interest, costs due to a municipality if the right to exercise the reserve minimum bid is noticed to the county treasurer. However, the property must be bid off in the name of the municipality if demand is made in writing by a municipality which has outstanding liens upon the property. In cases of nuisance property, the county treasurer shall have discretion not to bid off the property, unless the demand is made in writing by a municipality which has outstanding liens upon the property. Nuisance property definition is expanded to add property in which abatement liens have been placed upon the property by a municipality in excess of twenty-five percent (25%) of the property's fair market value as shown by the county assessor's office.

The bill passed the Senate General Government Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 2. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

(OML Priority) Sale for Resale: [HB 2234](#) by Rep. Mark Lawson (R-Sapulpa) and Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) requires resellers to obtain a separate sale for resale exemption permit issued by the Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC) in order to make use of the sales for resale sales tax exemption. OTC may also develop a verification process for sellers to confirm that a reseller has the required permit. Failure to obtain a permit while claiming the exemption is a misdemeanor crime subject to a fine up to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00).

The bill passed the Senate Finance Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 1 but it was not heard by the Senate Appropriations Committee before the deadline. The issue may be stymied for this Session, but the bill can be brought back next year.

(OML Priority) Law Enforcement/Drug Offenses: [SB 108](#) by Sen. Micheal Bergstrom (R-Adair) and Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) gives authority to the court to order a person to complete a substance abuse assessment and evaluation and a diversion program if they are found guilty of misdemeanor for possession of a controlled dangerous substance. The court may, without entering a judgment of guilty with the consent of the defendant, defer further proceeding upon the specific conditions prescribed by the court not to exceed a three (3) year period. The court is authorized to order the defendant to complete a diversion program in lieu of other punishments. The bill also provides that any person convicted of possessing or selling multiple Schedule I or Schedule II substances for the second (2nd) time within ten (10) years of the last conviction shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and required to complete a diversion program for up to one (1) year following the conviction. A third conviction shall subject the offender to a minimum of thirty (30) days in the county jail and a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). These individuals may be required to complete a diversion program for up to three (3) years. The bill provides that any person convicted of possessing or selling multiple Schedule I or Schedule II substances for the fourth (4th) time

within ten (10) years of the last conviction shall be guilty of a felony and subject to a term of imprisonment not exceeding five (5) years and/or a fine not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00).

The bill passed the House Public Safety Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 1. The bill moves to the House floor.

Gun Bill Shot Down in Sen. General Government

The bill to prohibit any governmental entity entering into a contract with a company that discriminates against a firearm entity or firearm trade association was shot down yesterday in the Senate General Government Committee by a [vote](#) of 4 to 5. OML has successfully worked on this issue for the past few years not as an anti-gun issue but an effort to protect our ability to avoid the red tape for doing business with banks for municipal bond funding. We would like you to join us in thanking the Senators that stood with municipalities to protect the cost of doing business.

Firearms/Contractual Requirements: [HB 2218](#) by Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) and Sen. Micheal Bergstrom (R-Adair) prohibits any governmental entity entering into a contract with a company for the purchase of goods or services unless the contract contains a written verification from the company 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. The provisions of this bill shall apply to companies with ten (10) full-time employees and have a value of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) that is paid wholly or partly from public funds of the governmental entity. The provisions of subsection C of this section shall not apply to a governmental entity that contracts with a sole-source supplier or after requesting bids, only receives bids from companies that do not comply with provisions of subsection C of this section. It is up to the Central Purchasing Division of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services shall have the authority and responsibility of reviewing state governmental contracts to confirm that the requirements of

subsection C of this section have been provided. A governmental entity shall utilize its current method of processing and analyzing the provisions within a contractual agreement and shall confirm that the required written verification has been included and made a part of the contractual agreement. The provisions of this section shall only apply to financial institutions that have Fifty Billion Dollars (\$50,000,000,000.00) or more in assets.

BILLS ON THE MOVE

Snapshot of bills impacting cities and towns

Route 66 Commission: [HB 1016](#) by Rep. Mark Lawson (R-Sapulpa) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) amends the membership of the Oklahoma Route 66 Commission.

The bill passed the Senate Tourism & Wildlife Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Labor/Drug Testing: [HB 1045](#) by Rep. Mark Lawson (R-Sapulpa) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) requires a drug screen testing facility to report single-use test results that meet the standard to be sent to the laboratory for confirmation testing to an employer's review officer or a designee of the employers review officer, as soon as the results for the single-use test become available or the next working day. The final conclusion of the testing shall be reviewed, and the test certified as an accurate report by the responsible individual. The report shall identify the drugs and metabolites tested for, whether positive or negative and the cutoff for each specimen number assigned by the employer and the testing facility specimen identification number. The certified laboratory shall send the review officer the positive drug test results for attesting to the validity of the test reports.

The bill passed the Senate Business & Commerce Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Sales Tax Exemption/Broadband Equipment: [HB 1130](#) by Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) and Sen. Roger Thompson (R-Okemah) allows a sales tax

exemption for qualifying broadband equipment to remain operational without the enactment of an incentive award formula. The bill removes the formula for the exemption as well as moving the enforcement to the Oklahoma Broadband Office.

The bill passed the Senate Finance committee with the title and enacting clause restored on Monday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 3. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Oklahoma Citizens Participation Act: [HB 1236](#) by Speaker Charles McCall (R-Atoka) and Sen. Greg McCortney (R-Ada) amends 12 O.S. 2021, Section 1438, authorizes, if the court orders dismissal of a legal action under the Oklahoma Citizens Participation Act, the court to award to the moving party: court costs, reasonable attorney fees and other expenses incurred in defending against the legal action as justice and equity may require and sanctions against the party who brought the legal action; provided, however, such sanctions shall not exceed the total amount awarded under paragraph 1 of this subsection.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Law Enforcement/Catalytic Converter Theft: [HB 1328](#) by Rep. Suzanne Schreiber (R-Tulsa) and Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) provides that any equipment used or intended to be used to commit any act of catalytic converter theft, copper theft, and any violation of the Oklahoma Scrap Metal Dealers Act, including any monies derived from proceeds due to catalytic converter theft, copper theft, or violations of the Oklahoma Scrap Metal Dealers Act are subject to forfeiture.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Boiler & Pressure Vessel Safety Act: [HB 1331](#) by Rep. Judd Strom (R-Copan) and Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) authorizes the Commissioner of Labor to promulgate rules establishing a schedule of administrative penalties and fines for violations of the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Act and/or the

Boiler and Pressure Vessel Rules which may be in addition to or in lieu of the criminal penalties provided in this section. The promulgation of an administrative fine schedule shall grant the Commissioner authority to impose those administrative fines for any violation of the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Act and/or the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Rules. Funds collected as payment from a violator for administrative fines imposed for a violation of the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Act and/or the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Rules shall be deposited to the Department of Labor Administrative Penalty Revolving Fund.

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

Law Enforcement Escorts: [HB 1393](#) by Rep. Steve Bashore (R-Miami) and Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) changes the entity that is to be paid a fee for providing a law enforcement escort for the transport of an oversized load or hazardous shipment from the Department of Transportation to the Department of Public Safety.

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

Firearms/Boating Safety Regulation Act: [HB 1404](#) by Rep. Bob Ed Culver (R-Tahlequah) and Sen. Dana Prieto (R-Tulsa) makes it unlawful to discharge a firearm from a vessel unless it is in self-defense. The bill modifies the punishment of fees and fines. It also removes the provisions of transporting handguns by licensees.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 3. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

First Responders Job Protection Act/Drug Tests/Exposure: [HB 1408](#) by Rep. Bob Ed Culver (R-Tahlequah) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) creates the First Responders Job Protection Act. It requires the first responder or volunteer first responder subject to drug testing to verbally report

to the first responder's agency or private employer prior to testing, any specific known potential passive exposure to any controlled dangerous drug that has occurred in the previous fourteen (14) days while responding to an emergency. In the event of a positive test, the medical review officer shall provide documentation of the verbal report and a subsequent written report provided by the responding agency in order to rule out passive exposure.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Oklahoma 9-1-1 Management Authority: [HB 1590](#) by Rep. Jim Grego (R-Wilburton) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) requires the Oklahoma 9-1-1 Management Authority to maintain an online training platform for 9-1-1 Emergency Telecommunicators in Oklahoma. The Authority shall create, maintain, and certify a list of qualified online and in-person training programs that include the basic requirement for a 9-1-1 Emergency Telecommunicator. Classes must be forty (40) hours in length and include instruction for basic call handling and dispatch services. The Authority shall establish hourly training requirements on a yearly basis. On or before July 1, 2024, all Emergency Telecommunicators must complete, either in person or virtual, a forty-eight (48) hour state recognized training course for basic call handling and dispatch. Any new Emergency Telecommunicator hired after January 1, 2024, must complete the training six (6) months after they are hired. On or before July 1, 2024, all Emergency Telecommunicators must complete, either in person or virtual, a state or nationally recognized telecommunicator CPR training course. If the state or an area of the state is utilizing Next Generation 9-1-1 system that uses the NENA i3 standard for call delivery, then the service company must provide the required data elements required by said standard. The bill amends the members of 9-1-1 Management Authority and names those members removed as nonvoting members. The fees are increased from seventy-five cents (\$.75) to One Dollar and twenty-five cents (\$1.25). The distribution of revenue from 9-1-1 fees has also been modified. Eligible governing bodies

are to be given a flat rate of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) per month per Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). Of the remaining revenue, ten percent (10%) will be distributed based on response area and ninety percent (90%) will be distributed based on population. A new public safety answering point (PSAP) shall not be established after July 1, 2024, unless the new PSAP is established as a result of: 1) a consolidation with an existing PSAP; or 2) a replacement of an existing PSAP.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with the enacting clause stricken on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 20 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Sales Tax Exemption/Commercial Digital Asset Mining: [HB 1600](#) by Rep. Ryan Martinez (R-Edmond) and Sen. John Montgomery (R-Lawton) creates the Commercial Digital Asset Mining Act of 2023. Beginning on the effective date of this act and ending on December 31, 2038, the sale of machinery and equipment including but not limited to servers and computers, racks, power distribution units, cabling, switchgear, transformers, substations, software, network equipment, and electricity used for commercial mining of digital assets in a colocation facility shall be exempt from the tax imposed by Section 1350 et seq. of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

The bill passed the Senate Business & Commerce Committee with the enacting clause stricken on Monday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 2 and then passed the Senate Finance Committee by a [vote](#) of 9 to 3. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Law Enforcement/Shooting into Buildings: [HB 1612](#) by Rep. Rande Worthen (R-Lawton) and Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) adds shooting into a dwelling, or a building used for public or business purposes, as provided for in Section 1289.17A of this title or any attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation thereof to the required sentence of eighty-five percent of imprisonment.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 15 to 5. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Law Enforcement/Trespassing: [HB 1737](#) by Rep. Tammy Townley (R-Ardmore) and Sen. John Montgomery (R-Lawton) considers a person to be a trespasser and not a guest of a lodging establishment if the innkeeper informs a person that he or she is being ejected for a stated reason. If the person fails to vacate the lodging establishment after being told of his or her ejection, the person shall be removed from the lodging establishment by law enforcement for trespassing.

The bill passed the Senate Business & Commerce Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Firearms/Oklahoma Self-Defense Act: [HB 1789](#) by Rep. Danny Williams (R-Seminole) and Sen. Nathan Dahm (R-Broken Arrow) authorizes a citizen or lawful permanent resident who can lawfully purchase or possess a firearm, to carry or transport a concealed or unconcealed firearm. The bill removes the requirement for a person to receive a handgun license from OSBI as well as the age limit and military identification. An individual is authorized to carry as long as they are in possession of a state photo identification card, driver license, or valid handgun license. The firearm must be concealed or unconcealed in compliance with the laws of this state. When coming into contact with a law enforcement officer and upon instruction from the law enforcement officer, the person must disclose the fact that he or she is in possession of a firearm.

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

State Architectural & Registered Commercial Interior Designers Act: [HB 1793](#) by Rep. Mike Osburn (R-Edmond) and Sen. Adam Pugh (R-Edmond) defines "nonstructural interior construction" to mean the construction of elements which do not include: the design of architectural and engineering work, altering the building's existing primary structural, fire and life safety, mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, as set out in Oklahoma state law or the current International Building Code as adopted by OUBCC or other

related primary building systems, and changes to the building's core and shell. Nonstructural interior construction projects in Code Use Groups requiring an architect are exempt from hiring an architect if the services are performed by a licensed interior designer.

The bill passed the Senate Business & Commerce Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Emergency Drought Commission: [HB 1847](#) by Rep. John Kane (R-Bartlesville) and Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) expands the membership of the Emergency Drought Commission by adding one member appointed by the Speaker of the House who resides west of Interstate 35 (I-35) and one member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate who resides east of Interstate 35 (I-35).

The bill passed the Senate Agriculture & Rural Development Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Law Enforcement/Littering: [HB 1891](#) by Rep. Josh Cantrell (R-Kingston) and Sen. Jack Stewart (R-Yukon) authorizes any peace officer of this state or any political subdivision of this state to issue a state traffic citation to any person committing a violation of Section 1205 of this title. The fines collected from the payment of such traffic citations shall not include court costs and shall be divided as follows: one-half (1/2) to be paid into the reward fund created pursuant to Section 1334 of Title 22 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and one-half (1/2) to be paid into the sheriff's service fee account for that county to be used for enforcing the provisions of Section 1205 of this title. In lieu of a fine, courts may assess payment into the reward fund for criminal violations of environmental statutes including but not limited to, Sections 2-5-116, 2-6-206, and 2-10-310 of Title 27A. Such payments shall not exceed the maximum possible criminal fine for such violation. The identity of an individual who reports a littering complaint to law enforcement shall remain anonymous. Disclosure of information and identities of informants shall be at the discretion of the district attorney and presiding judge.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 3. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Court Costs: [HB 1923](#) by Rep. Lonnie Sims (R-Jenks) and Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) increases court fees for serving or endeavoring to serve a writ, warrant, order, process, command or notice from Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) to One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) provided that if more than one person in the same address is charged the flat fee is increased from Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) to One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00). For sheriff's fees on court-ordered sales of real or personal property, the fee is three percent (3%) of the sales price paid by the buyers.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 2. The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 14 to 5. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Law Enforcement/CLEET/Promissory Note: [HB 1925](#) by Rep. Lonnie Sims (R-Jenks) and Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) authorizes a law enforcement agency previously approved by CLEET to conduct a basic law enforcement academy to require any person or peace officer to execute a promissory note for academy training expenses payable to the law enforcement agency conducting the training, whereby the person or peace officer promises to repay the note by remaining with the law enforcement agency in a position approved by the law enforcement agency for a period of time agreed upon and under terms and conditions agreeable to both parties, not to extend longer than four (4) years following graduation from the basic law enforcement academy.

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

Hazard Mitigation Financial Assistance: [HB 1928](#) by Rep. Lonnie Sims (R-Jenks) and Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) creates the Hazard Mitigation Financial Assistance Fund within the Oklahoma Water Resources Board for the purpose of providing grants

for hazard mitigation. In addition to other lawful purposes, monies placed in the Fund, exclusive of such amounts of interest derived from investment deposits necessary to maintain the grant account, may be used by OWRB to implement hazard mitigation planning and projects. Eligible entities are able to use the grants to develop an approved local/regional hazard mitigation planning document, acquire land or conservation easements to mitigate hazards, and implement voluntary incentive-based hazard mitigation measures to facilitate compliance with state or national regulations. The bill also clarifies language and broadens the applicability of this measure from flood hazard mitigation projects to include other hazard mitigation projects.

The bill passed the Senate Energy & Telecommunications Committee with the title stricken on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

OWRB/Permit Fees: [HB 1940](#) by Speaker Charles McCall (R-Atoka) and Sen. Greg McCortney (R-Ada) requires OWRB to modify its rules to establish a flat fee for both regular and temporary permits. The fee may be the same for both regular and temporary permits. The permit fees shall not increase or decrease in proportion to the volume of water permitted or for any other reason.

The bill passed the Senate Energy & Telecommunications Committee with the title stricken on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Easements/Broadband: [HB 1965](#) by Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) defines "approved broadband provider", "broadband services", "electric provider" and "telecommunication provider". The definition of "telecommunications provider" means any corporation, association or cooperative corporation engaged in the delivery of telecommunications over wireline facilities in this state with a valid pole attachment agreement with an Electric Provider" to which it is attaching." The bill allows electric, telecommunications, and broadband providers to utilize existing electrical utility easements to

provide or expand access to broadband services. The bill prohibits class action lawsuits alleging trespass, nuisance or inverse condemnation based on a claim of expanded easement use when the broadband facilities are located on above ground property owned or utilized by an electric provider. Such claims must be brought individually by the property owner. Upon a successful claim by the property owner and payment of damages to the property owner, an electric or broadband provider will be granted a permanent easement for the use of the facilities installed. An Approved Broadband Provider, an Electric Provider's broadband subsidiary, or Telecommunications Provider shall attempt to provide notice to the property owner.

The bill was [amended](#) and passed the Senate Energy & Telecommunications Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Police Pension/Small Departments: [HB 1969](#) by Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) and Sen. John Montgomery (R-Lawton) permits a municipality with a population of four thousand five hundred (4,500) or less, according to the latest Federal Decennial Census, to employ a retired police officers who are more than forty-five (45) years in age and who have participated in the Oklahoma Police Pension & Retirement System and are receiving retirement benefits. Such an officer shall not be eligible to reenter and participate in the system.

The bill passed the Senate Retirement & Insurance Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with the title stricken on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 19 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Law Enforcement/DPS/Investigations: [HB 1976](#) by Rep. JJ Humphrey (R-Lane) and Sen. Warren Hamilton (R-McCurtain) authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety to collect information concerning the activity and identity of individuals reasonably believed to be engaged in terrorism, threats to public safety, organized crime, criminal conspiracies, or other threats of violent crime; analyze collected information and disseminate such information to

other law enforcement agencies; coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies to protect citizens from terrorism, threats to public safety, organized crime, criminal conspiracies, or any other threats of violent crime by creating a clearinghouse of crime-related information; and provide training to peace officers of this state concerning the legal collection, preservation, and dissemination of crime-related information. The Commissioner may assign attorneys of DPS to support such criminal analysis and investigative functions. With written authorization from the Commissioner, Department attorneys assigned to these duties, who have been certified by CLEET, may carry a weapon. Information collected is prohibited from being released except to law enforcement agencies and prosecutorial authorities for the purpose of crime prevention, investigations, or criminal prosecution. Unauthorized release of information is subject to a misdemeanor with a fine and imprisonment.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 4. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Law Enforcement/Fentanyl/Drug Paraphernalia: [HB 1987](#) by Rep. Mickey Dollens (D-OKC) and Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) modifies the definition of "drug paraphernalia" to add drug testing strips possessed by a person for purposes of determining the presence of fentanyl or fentanyl-related compound.

The bill passed the Senate Health & Human Services on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Law Enforcement/Verbal Warnings: [HB 2041](#) by Rep. Monroe Nichols (D-Tulsa) and Pro Tempore Greg Treat (R-OKC) allows a law enforcement officer who comes into contact with a person who has a misdemeanor warrant to issue a verbal warning about the existence of the warrant and advise the defendant to contact the clerk of the court to resolve the outstanding warrant. All verbal warnings shall be documented by law enforcement on a department-issued warning ticket or arrest the defendant and take him before a magistrate in that county.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Preemption/Internal Combustion Engines: [HB 2135](#) by Rep. Mark Lepak (R-Claremore) and Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) creates the Oklahoma Right to Drive Act. For purposes of promoting commerce and the equitable treatment of the citizens of this state, limitations on the sale, purchase, trade, or usage of any motor vehicle which utilizes an internal combustion engine as a means of propulsion by any city, town, county, or subdivision thereof is declared a statewide concern and shall be prohibited from any regulation by a city, town, county, or subdivision.

The bill passed the Senate General Government Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 3. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Municipal Road Construction/Fair Pay for Construction Act: [HB 2150](#) by Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) and Sen. Cody Rogers (R-Tulsa) adds municipal road construction to the list of exemptions of the Fair Pay for Construction Act.

The bill passed the Senate Aeronautics & Transportation Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Healthcare Facility Violence: [HB 2154](#) by Rep. Cynthia Roe (R-Lindsay) and Sen. Kristen Thompson (R-Edmond) amends the definition of medical care provider to include any other employees or independent contractors working in or for a health care facility. The bill prohibits assault on any medical care providers, other employees or independent contractors working in or for a health care facility and performing medical care duties. The medical facilities are required to report assault data to the Department of Health by January 31st of the following year. Reports are to withhold the identities of both the victim and assailant. The Department of Health is authorized to publish the data on its website on an annual basis.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 3. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Law Enforcement/Investigations of Officers: [HB 2161](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) requires at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members, staff, employees or seats of any government committee, board, agency, department, office, or entity that investigates law enforcement officer misconduct, influences the conduct of or certifies law enforcement officer misconduct investigations, recommends disciplinary actions for law enforcement officer misconduct or imposes discipline for law enforcement officer misconduct must be law enforcement officers certified by the CLEET and who are of any rank and who are from the same department or agency as the law enforcement officer who is the subject of the investigation or disciplinary action. Any findings or recommendations from any government committee, board, agency, department, office or entity shall require a majority vote to do any of the following: investigate law enforcement officer misconduct; influence the conduct of or certify law enforcement officer misconduct investigations; recommend disciplinary actions for law enforcement officer misconduct; or impose discipline for law enforcement for officer's misconduct. The Legislature find that setting and maintaining standards of professionalism and integrity of law enforcement officers in this state are of statewide concern.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 3. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Public Retirement Systems: [HB 2171](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. John Montgomery (R-Lawton) authorizes a retirement benefit increase for members of the Systems that have been retired for two (2) or more years as of the effective date of the benefit increase. The retirement benefit increase shall be One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) or greater but shall not exceed Three Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$3,200.00). Provided, however, that retired members who are seventy-five (75) years of age or older shall receive

Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), which shall not be included in the benefit amount limitation, in addition to the retirement benefit increase to be calculated. The retirement benefit increase shall not be a modification of the final average compensation used in order to compute the benefit of the member. The retirement benefit increase may only be computed by using the then-applicable gross annual retirement benefit of the member divided by the whole number twelve (12). The resulting amount may be paid to the retired member in addition to other retirement benefits.

The bill passed the Senate Retirement & Insurance Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with the title stricken on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 18 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Medical Care Providers/Personal Information: [HB 2172](#) by Rep. Cynthia Roe (R-Lindsay) and Sen. Kristen Thompson (R-Edmond) adds medical care providers to the list of individuals that are protected from having their electronic communication devices to public identifying information. However, it shall not apply when the incident is unrelated to the provider's professional duties. "Medical care provider" means a doctor, resident, intern, nurse, nurse practitioner, nurses' aide, ambulance attendant or operator, paramedic, emergency medical technician, laboratory technician, radiologic technologist, physical therapist, physician assistant, chaplain of a health care facility, volunteer of a health care facility, pharmacist, nursing student, medical student, member of a hospital security force, and any other employee or contractor working in or for a health care facility.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Eminent Domain: [HB 2191](#) by Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) prohibits 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 also provides definitions for abandoned property, blighted property, and public use.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee with the title stricken on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Terry Peach North Canadian Watershed Restoration Act: [HB 2239](#) by Rep. Mike Dobrinski (R-Okeene) and Sen. Darcy Jech (R-Kingfisher) creates the Terry Peach North Canadian Watershed Restoration Act. There is a pilot program created to remove or eradicate invasive woody species in the North Canadian Watershed to be administered by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. The Commission shall cooperate with landowners, state agencies and other political subdivisions for removal of invasive woody species. The Commission is authorized to promulgate any rules and procedures to effectuate the provisions of this section. The creation of a revolving fund in the State Treasury is designated the "North Canadian Watershed Revolving Fund" and consists of all monies received by the Conservation Commission from appropriations, federal grants or funds, municipal contributions, private contributions, and any other sources, including interest earned for duties associated with invasive woody species removal.

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

Utilities/Exemption for Victims of Certain Crimes: [HB 2242](#) by Sen. Mike Dobrinski (R-Kingfisher) and Sen. Adam Pugh (R-Edmond) allows a customer or applicant who has been determined to be a victim of domestic violence, stalking, or harassment by any of the following: 1) an existing protective order; 2) law enforcement personnel; or 3) a designated representative of a certified domestic violence shelter or certified domestic violence program to be exempt from the public utility's initial credit and deposit requirements as established by the public utility.

The bill passed the Senate General Government Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Sales Tax Exemption/Disabled Veterans/Surviving Spouse: [HB 2312](#) by Speaker Pro Tempore Kyle Hilbert (R-Bristow) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) amends 68 O.S. Section 1357(34) allowing the surviving spouse of a one hundred percent (100%) disabled veteran to claim the surviving spouse sales tax exemption even if the one hundred percent (100%) disability determination isn't finalized until after the death of the veteran.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 20 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Sales Tax/Hotels: [HB 2335](#) by Rep. Nick Archer (R-Elk City) and Sen. Kristen Thompson (R-Edmond) removes tax reporting requirements, permit and remitting requirements under 68 O.S. 1392 from hotel products. Products include personnel property, services, or other transactions. This exception only applies to hotels with more than twelve (12) rooms for occupancy in the regular course of business by the hotel or motel.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 20 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Sales Tax Exemption/Farming & Livestock: [HB 2350](#) by Rep. Eddy Dempsey (R-Valliant) and Sen. Chris Kidd (R-Waurika) amends the definition of

"agricultural products" to include game animals and timber. It also defines "farming" or "farm" to include the production of timber, seedling production, and forestry management and shall include the production of game animals; game animals mean animals bred to be hunted for sport or food but shall not include feral swine.

The bill passed the Senate Finance Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Civil Procedure/Default Judgments: [HB 2372](#) by Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) declares nothing in any provision of this title or in any local or district court rule shall be construed to require either a motion or a hearing for default judgment, and no notice shall be necessary, if, after service of summons and petition, a defendant fails to timely file with the court clerk within twenty (20) days a written appearance, answer, motion, pleading, or response as provided in subsection A of this section. Contact or communication with the plaintiff or attorney of the plaintiff shall not constitute an appearance, answer, motion, pleading, or response unless the contact or communication is in writing and is also timely filed by the defendant in writing with the court clerk as provided in subsection A of this section. The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to prevent an evidentiary hearing concerning the amount of damages to be awarded. Interest in a judgment shall also apply to the amounts collected on any judgment enforced during the pendency of an appeal which is subsequently overturned on appeal when restitution is paid to the defendant.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee with the title stricken on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Law Enforcement/CLEET: [HB 2374](#) by Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) and Sen. Michael Brooks (D-OKC) allows counties or municipalities to contract with authorized entities for non-classroom law enforcement education training.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact: [HB 2422](#) by Rep. Arturo Alonso (D-OKC) and Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) creates the Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact to protect the public through verification of competency and ensure accountability for patient care-related activities all state-licensed EMS personnel.

The bill passed the Senate Health & Human Services Committee with the enacting clause stricken on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Oklahoma Uniform Building Code Commission (OUBCC) [HB 2425](#) by Rep. Stan May (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Blake Stephens (R-Tahlequah) requires amendments or modifications to the currently adopted state codes shall be forwarded to OUBCC.

The bill passed the Senate Business & Commerce Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Preemption/Child Care Facilities: [HB 2452](#) by Rep. Suzanne Schreiber (D-Tulsa) and Sen. Jessica Garvin (R-Duncan) prohibits local governing authorities from promulgating local regulations that permit or require licensees of family child care homes to exceed or limit the capacity provided by the license granted to the family child care home licensee by DHS.

The bill passed the Senate Health & Human Services Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Law Enforcement/Excessive Force [HB 2537](#) by Rep. John George (R-Newalla) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) clarifies the standard by which excessive force is used in the line of duty, the officer is subject to the criminal laws of this state to the same degree as any other citizen, if excessive force is established as an element of any alleged violation

under the criminal laws of this state. "Law enforcement duties" means duties carried out while acting as a peace officer pursuant to Section 99a of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Each law enforcement entity which employs any peace officer shall adopt policies or guidelines concerning the use of force by peace officers employed by the entity.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Public Finance/Local Government Investment Pools: [HB 2538](#) by Rep. Mark Lawson (R-Sapulpa) and Sen. Chris Kidd (R-Waurika) requires any pooled investment program for a county, city or town to be governed through an interlocal cooperative agreement. The governing body of the local government must amend their written investment policies prior to participating in a qualified program. The bill allows investment purchases by a qualified program to bypass existing investment restrictions.

The bill passed the Senate Finance Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Law Enforcement/Sex Offenders: [HB 2608](#) by Rep. JJ Humphrey (R-Lane) and Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) modifies the definition of "local law enforcement authority" within the Oklahoma Sex Offender Registration Act to include the police or law enforcement officers of any federally recognized Indian nation or tribe in Oklahoma. This will require persons subject to registration to report to such law enforcement if they reside or stay within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Indian nation or tribe.

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

Opioid Substitution Treatment Program: [HB 2686](#) by Rep. Rick West (R-Heavner) and Sen. George Burns (R-Pollard) requires an opioid substitution treatment program to comply with all federal requirements for opioid treatment programs

provided by 42 C.F.R. , Subpart C including but not limited to the requirement to provide drug abuse testing services provided by 42 C.F.R., Section 8.12(f)(6). Drug abuse testing shall be directly observed by an employee or contractor of the opioid substitution treatment program. Failure to comply with the rules and standards of ODMHSAS or failure to comply with the requirements of 42 C.F.R., Subpart C is grounds for reprimand, suspension, revocation or nonrenewal of certification.

The bill passed the Senate Health & Human Services Committee with the title stricken on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Fire Investigations: [HB 2757](#) by Rep. Stan May (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) authorizes the fire chief in every city, town or district in which a fire department is established or the mayor of the city or town where no fire department exists, or the sheriff of the county by which property has been destroyed or damaged to investigate as to whether the cause of the fire was accidental or intentional within forty-eight (48) hours of such fire. The officer making the investigation of fires shall within a week of the occurrence of the fire complete a written statement of all acts relating to the cause and origin of the fire and shall within forty-eight (48) hours of the occurrence of such fire report to the State Fire Marshal all civilian and firefighter injuries and fatalities resulting from the occurrence of such fire.

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

Oklahoma Hospital Cybersecurity Protection Act of 2023: [HB 2790](#) by Rep. Preston Stinson (R-Edmond) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) creates the Oklahoma Hospital Cybersecurity Protection Act of 2023. A covered entity shall create, maintain, and comply with a written cybersecurity program that protects both personal information and restricted information and that reasonably conforms to an industry recognized cybersecurity framework.

The bill passed the Senate Health & Human Services Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Courts/OBA/OSCN: [HB 2792](#) by Rep. Preston Stinson (R-Edmond) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) directs the Oklahoma Bar Association to develop an eviction form using plain and understandable language. The Administrative Office of the Courts is required to provide public access to the affidavit by providing a link to the form on the Oklahoma State Courts Network (OSCN) website.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2023: [HB 2794](#) by Rep. Preston Stinson (R-Edmond) and Sen. Adam Pugh (R-Edmond) creates the Oklahoma Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2023. The bill defines "at-risk individual" as any active or retired member of the State Judiciary, and shall also include municipal, county, and federal judges. Each at-risk individual as and may file a written notice as an at-risk individual, for themselves and immediate family, with each state agency that includes information necessary to ensure compliance, as determined by the Administrator Director of the Courts. Eligible at-risk individuals may also make the same request to any private entity that has publicly posted the covered information on the Internet and may ask that the information of their immediate family members also be protected. The bill prohibits data brokers from knowingly selling, licensing, trading, or purchasing private information pertaining to a judge or his or her immediate family. Additionally, the Administrator Director of the Courts is required to submit an annual report to the Legislature detailing the amount spent by the state and local governments to protect the judge's information.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee with the enacting clause stricken on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

OSBI/Alaunna Raffield Fund: [HB 2851](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) requires the OSBI to establish the Alaunna Raffield Fund to assist in training other law enforcement officers. The Fund shall be administered and utilized by the OSBI in amounts as directed by the Legislature for such purpose. Monies allocated shall be utilized to assist law enforcement partners with the cost of attending training facilitated by the OSBI. Scholarship opportunities shall be afforded each year to county and municipal law enforcement agencies to attend accredited training conducted by the OSBI. The OSBI is authorized to promulgate agency rules for the administration of the Fund and determination of scholarship awards.

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

Law Enforcement/Bulk Fuel Transportation & Inspection Act: [HB 2852](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) creates the Bulk Fuel Transportation & Inspection Act. The bill requires every person wishing to transport bulk fuels by motor vehicle to possess and present for inspection, when requested by law enforcement, a proper bulk fuel manifest; allow for safety inspection by appropriate law and code enforcement officials during transportation; and only transport such bulk fuel in visible, clearly marked fuel storage containers designed and manufactured for transporting such fuels. Any person convicted of unlawful transportation of bulk fuels may be convicted of a felony, punishable by up to five (5) years imprisonment, a fine of up to Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), or both fine and imprisonment. The bill also creates the Fuel Pump Security Act which prohibits any person from opening, manipulating, or altering a motor fuel dispenser for an unlawful purpose or to manufacture, possess or sell a motor fuel manipulation device intended to be used for an unlawful purpose. Violation is a felony punishable by up to five (5) years in prison or a fine of not more than Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) or both fine and imprisonment.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with the title stricken on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 15 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Municipal Franchise Agreements: [HB 2857](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) allows the terms and conditions of an expired or terminated municipal franchise granted pursuant to Section 5(a) and 5(b) of Article 18 of the Oklahoma Constitution, to continue in effect as an implied contract between the municipality and the franchise holder for a reasonable time. Franchise fees are to continue to be paid by the former franchise holder to the municipality during the term of the implied contract. Municipalities are to hold the money collected from the franchise fees in a separate account until the implied contract expires. If a civil action is filed against the implied contract, all franchise fees are to be held by the municipality in a separate account until resolved.

The bill passed the Senate General Government Committee with the title stricken on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 3. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Law Enforcement/Mental Health Transportation: [HB 2864](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) creates a revolving fund for the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to be designated the "Mental Health Transport Revolving Fund". The bill removes language regarding initial contact. It also adjusts the responsibilities of the ODMHSAS to coordinate with law enforcement to provide transportation or an entity contracted by the Department who is responsible for subsequent transportation of an individual.

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

Affordable Housing/Oklahoma Housing Programs: [HB 2870](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) creates the Oklahoma Homebuilder Program to fund to help create more affordable single family housing units across Oklahoma. The program shall be a loan program to homebuilders with interest rates as low

as zero percent (0%) for urban and rural developments. The bill also establishes the Oklahoma Increased Housing Program to provide grants to build additional single and multi-family housing units and offer homebuyers down payment assistance. The Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency will promulgate rules to administer both programs.

The bill passed the Senate Business & Commerce Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

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

The bill passed the House County & Municipal Government Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Prevention of Youth Access of Tobacco: [SB 34](#) by Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) and Sen. Collin Duel (R-Guthrie) updates the statutes relating to the Prevention of Youth Access to Tobacco.

The bill passed the House Public Health Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Hotel Licenses: [SB 73](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) and Rep. Clay Staires (R-Skiatook) increases the number of rooms that declares a hotel from four (4) to five (5). The bill also replaces the State Board of Health as the issuing and regulatory body to the Commissioner of Health. The bill also strikes language authorizing the Commissioner to regulate the ventilation, lighting, and construction of hotels.

The bill passed the House Public Health Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Law Enforcement/Violent Crime/Students: [SB 126](#) by Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) and Rep. Sherrie Conley (R-Newcastle) in the course of an arrest for a violent crime, it is discovered that the person being

arrested is a student of a school district or public school in this state, the arresting law enforcement agency is required to notify the superintendent of the school district or public school in which the student is enrolled. The notification and related information of the arrest and any information regarding the adjudication of the student shall be conducted with due regard for the provisions of subsection C of Section 2-6-102 of Title 10A and shall be kept as part of the student's permanent records and included in the records provided to a receiving district should a student transfer due to the Education Open Transfer Act. Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, each school district shall include in its student's enrollment and transfer documentation a request for information regarding any arrest of a student for a violent crime. Failure to provide the information shall not prohibit the enrollment or transfer of the student.

The bill passed the House Education Committee with the enacting clause stricken on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 2. The bill moves to the House floor.

Sales Tax Exemption/Marijuana/Agricultural Products: [SB 133](#) by Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) and Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Mulhall) amends the definition of "agricultural products" by excluding the growing, harvesting, and processing of medical marijuana.

The bill passed the House A&B Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 32 to 1. The bill moves to the House floor.

Emergency Operations Plans: [SB 230](#) by Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) and Rep. Cynthia Roe (R-Lindsay) requires emergency operations plans to include a response to a catastrophic health emergency as defined in 63 O.S. 2021, Section 6104. The bill repeals 63 O.S. 2021, Section 6105, which is the Oklahoma Catastrophic Health Emergency Planning Task Force.

The bill passed the House Public Health Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Rural Hospitals: [SB 293](#) by Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) and Rep. Ty Burns (R-Pawnee) defines "rural emergency hospital" to include a hospital that provides emergency treatment and stabilization services for an average length of stay of twenty-four (24) hours or less.

The bill passed the House A&B Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 35 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Commercial Pet Breeders & Animal Shelter Licensing Act: [SB 349](#) by Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Wilson) and Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) repeals the ability of a municipality/animal control to ask for reports from commercial animal breeders. Additionally, breeders no longer have to submit these reports to the OK Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

The bill passed the House Agriculture Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 15 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Sales Tax Exemption/Feminine Hygiene Products: [SB 382](#) by Sen. Jessica Garvin (R-Duncan) and Rep. Cynthia Roe (R-Lindsay) creates the Feminine Hygiene Program under the State Department of Health. The local health departments are authorized to apply to the State Department for available funds to distribute feminine hygiene products. Local departments are authorized to partner with public schools, institutions of higher education, career tech centers, and nonprofit organizations. The bill creates the Feminine Hygiene Program Revolving Fund. Additionally, the bill creates a sales tax exemption for the sale of female hygiene products to a 501(c)(3) organization that provides feminine hygiene products free of charge directly to individuals in need.

The bill passed the House Public Health Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 5 to 1. The bill moves to the House floor.

Law Enforcement/OK Crime Victims Compensation Act: [SB 420](#) by Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) and Rep. Clay Staires (R-Skiatook) increases the window to file certain claims with the

Crime Victims Compensation Board from one (1) to five (5) years, establishes the Board shall not find an injury attributable to the victim where a self-inflicted injury is a result of the crime committed against the victim, and increases compensation.

The bill passed the House Criminal Justice & Corrections Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 5 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Fire Departments/Wildlife Reimbursement Revolving Fund: [SB 492](#) by Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) and Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) creates the Wildfire Reimbursement Revolving Fund for the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry. The money will be dispersed for expenditures of Oklahoma rural fire departments and the Oklahoma Forestry Service who participated in extinguishment of fires that: 1) were not fully extinguished in the twenty-four (24) hours after their reporting; and 2) expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed with the Director of Office of Management and Enterprise for approval and payment. The Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) for the Wildfire Reimbursement Revolving Fund.

The bill passed the House Agriculture Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 15 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Emergency Medical Services: [SB 536](#) by Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) and Rep. Brian Hill (R-Mustang) defines "ambulance service" to mean any private firm or governmental agency that owns or operates ambulances and shall be licensed by the State Department of Health to provide levels of medical care, including but not limited to, comprehensive integrated medical care in emergency and nonemergency settings under the supervision of a physician based on certification standards promulgated by the Commissioner. The bill also develops a regulatory framework for the creation of community paramedic services that will mitigate unnecessary use of ambulatory services, and specifies that such services must be part of a care

plan ordered by a primary health care provider or hospital provider, and must include:

- health assessment
- chronic disease monitoring and education
- medication compliance
- immunizations and vaccinations
- laboratory specimen collection
- hospital discharge follow-up care
- minor medical procedures compliant with the community paramedic's scope of practice that are approved by the ambulance medical director. The bill modifies the definition of stretcher van passenger to specify that passengers will be authorized through screening provided by a certified medical dispatching protocol that will be made available for review during inspection. Section 63 O.S. Section 1-2503 is repealed.

The bill passed the House County & Municipal Government Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Oklahoma Organized Retail Crime Task Force: [SB 674](#) by Pro Tempore Greg Treat (R-OKC) and Speaker Charles McCall (R-Atoka) creates a fifteen (15) member Oklahoma Organized Retail Crime Task Force until December 31, 2024. One of the members is appointed by the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police. The purpose of the task force is to provide the Legislature and the Governor with information on organized retail crime and the advantages and drawbacks of instituting various countermeasures to counter losses from retail theft in the state.

The task force report shall include, but not limited to, the following information based on available data: 1) a review of laws and regulations on organized retail crime used by other states, the federal government, and foreign countries to regulate the marketplace; 2) the use of organized retail theft's impact on state and local tax receipts; 3) need for interagency coordination of public education and prevention programs for business owners; and 4) legislative and regulatory recommendation, if any, to increase transparency and security, enhance consumer protections, prevent organized retail theft, and to address the

long-term economic impact related to the prevalence of organized retail crime.

The bill passed the House Rules Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Law Enforcement/Seat Belts for 16 Years & Younger: [SB 681](#) by Sen. Roland Pederson (R-Burlington) and Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) requires every passenger sixteen (16) years or younger in the back seat of a passenger vehicle to wear a properly adjusted and fastened safety seat belt, unless otherwise provided for in a child passenger restraint system.

The bill passed the House Public Safety Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 1. The bill moves to the House floor.

Law Enforcement/Canine Cooperative Grant Program: [SB 725](#) by Sen. Jack Stewart (R-Yukon) and Rep. Josh Cantrell (R-Kingston) creates the Canine Cooperative Grant Program under the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The Program shall provide financial assistance for state, county, and municipal law enforcement and fire departments entities for the acquisition and training of law enforcement canines, search and rescue and recovery canines. The Program may also assist in the medical expenses related to injuries sustained by the canines in the line of duty. The Department of Environmental Quality is authorized to retain five percent (5%) of the monies provided to the Program for administrative purposes. The bill limits grants to not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) per year subject to available funds. The bill also makes grants for the reimbursement of medical expenses for the canines injured in the line of service with a fire department or state, county, or municipal law enforcement subject to availability of funds.

The bill passed the House A&B Committee with the title and enacting clause stricken on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 35 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Medical Marijuana/Commercial Growers: [SB 801](#) by Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) and Rep. T.J. Marti (R-Tulsa) requires every existing licensed

medical marijuana commercial grower to inform retail suppliers or electric cooperatives utilized of their status as a licensed medical marijuana commercial grower within thirty (30) days. All new licensees must inform the retail supplier or electric cooperative at the time of connection of services. The bill also requires commercial growers to electronically transmit monthly reports to the OMMA providing the amount of electricity and water consumed. Refusal or failure to submit the required monthly usage reports or use of an unpermitted water source by a commercial grower will result in the permanent revocation of their license.

The bill passed the House Alcohol, Tobacco & Controlled Substances Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Oklahoma Broadband Expansion Act/OMES: [SB 848](#) by Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) and Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Lawton) requires OMES to aid in the manner requested within thirty (30) days of determination by the Agency that the request is able to be fulfilled. If for any reason the request cannot be fulfilled within thirty (30) days, the Oklahoma Broadband Office and OMES shall enter into a written agreement expressing an agreed upon timeline for fulfilling the needs of the Office. In the event that the request cannot be fulfilled, OMES shall respond in writing the reasoning for denial.

The bill passed the House Government Modernization & Technology Committee with the enacting clause stricken on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Oklahoma Broadband Expansion Act/Reporting: [SB 849](#) by Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) and Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Lawton) modifies reporting requirements for private providers submitted to the Oklahoma Broadband Office.

The bill passed the House Government Modernization & Technology Committee with the enacting clause stricken on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Public Buildings/National Motto: [SB 949](#) by Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) and Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) authorizes the governing body of a county or municipality shall be authorized to display the national motto of the United States in a prominently visible location in any building in its respective custody. The placement and size shall be in keeping with the placement and size of the display of the national motto in the US Capitol Visitor Center.

The bill passed the House County & Municipal Government Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 1. The bill moves to the House floor.

Law Enforcement/Statewide Radio Strategic Plan: [SB 966](#) by Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) and Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) requires the Land Mobile Radio Public Safety Interoperability Cooperative (Cooperative) to create a Statewide Radio Strategic Plan for leveraging existing assets and evolving the technology platform on which the Statewide Interoperable Radio Communications System is based and electronically transmit a copy of the Plan to the respective offices of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Governor of this state within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this act. The Cooperative shall implement the Plan in collaboration with all state agencies, political subdivision entities, and other interested parties that maintain a public radio system in this state. The Statewide Interoperable Radio Communications Governance Body, created in Section 2 of this act, shall facilitate the interoperability of the radio system of this state. There is created a five (5) member of the Statewide Interoperable Radio Communications Governance Body. There is created in the State Treasury a revolving fund to be designated the Statewide Public Safety Interoperable Radio Communications System Revolving Fund to be used for the purpose of implementing and maintaining a statewide interoperable radio communications system.

The bill passed the House A&B Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 33 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Sales & Use Tax/Sale of a Motor Vehicle: [SB 984](#) by Sen. Darcy Jech (R-Kingfisher) and Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) provides that if the sale of a motor vehicle includes in trade-in, gross receipts shall be calculated based only on the difference between the value of the trade-in vehicle and the actual sales price of the vehicle being purchased.

The bill passed the House A&B Committee with the title and enacting clause stricken on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 35 to 1. The bill moves to the House floor.

Small Wireless Facilities: [SB 1099](#) by Pro Tempore Greg Treat (R-OKC) and Speaker Charles McCall (R-Atoka) amends the time frame for an application to be processed on a nondiscriminatory basis established by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to 47 C.F.R. 1.6003 (c).

The bill passed the House Rules Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.