

In This Issue:

Final Countdown with the Addition of Special Session	1
OML Needs Your Voice of Support for HB 2153	1
Comp Plan Bill Has Returned	2
OML's Municipal Judge Certification Sent to Governor Stitt	2
Gov. Stitt Shoots Down Gun Bill	2
Bills Signed by Gov. Stitt	3
Bills Sent to Gov. Stitt	5
Bills on the Move	6

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Final Countdown with the Addition of Special Session

There is one week left of the 1st Session of the 59th Legislature. Pursuant to the Constitution, they must adjourn by Friday, May 26th at 5:00 p.m. On Tuesday, the Legislature called a Special Session to address the state budget, legislation related to implementing and administering budget-related funds; and expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. It will run concurrently with this Session. It is the understanding that the Legislature will adjourn Special Session to the call of the chair and return sometime in June to override any gubernatorial vetoes. [Special Session Call](#).

OML Needs Your Voice of Support for HB 2153

On Tuesday the House accepted the Senate amendments by a [vote](#) of 57 to 35 and sent OML's Priority bill, [HB 2153](#) to Governor Stitt. OML is aware that several lobbyists are working hard to ask the Governor to veto the measure. We need YOU to reach out to Governor Stitt and ask him to sign HB 2153. You can reach out to Governor Stitt on the website: [Leave a Comment or Opinion \(oklahoma.gov\)](#) or by phone at 405-521-2342.

HB 2153 by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Micheal Bergstrom (R-Adair) provides that any person convicted of a second offense within ten (10) years of the previous conviction relating to possessing, selling, or purchasing controlled dangerous substances may be ordered by the court to complete a diversion program for up to one (1) year following the date of conviction in lieu of other punishments. The program may include drug testing as a requirement. Any person convicted of a third offense within ten (10) years of the previous conviction shall be subject to a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) and/or a term of imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed 30 days. The court may, with the consent of the defendant, order the defendant to complete a substance abuse assessment and evaluation and to complete a diversion program for up to three (3) years following the date of conviction.

The court may impose punishment as provided for in current law if the defendant refuses to complete the program. Any person convicted for a fourth offense within the ten (10)-year period shall be subject to a fine not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) and/or a term of imprisonment for not less than one (1) year and not more than five (5) years. The court may order the defendant to complete a diversion program and, upon completing the program, change the felony charges to a misdemeanor.

[Comp Plan Bill Has Returned](#)

It has always been said that nothing ever dies until Sine Die. That reality has come to light with the resurgence of the Comprehensive Plan language that was once in HB 2089 has now come back in [HB 1599](#).

This bill by Rep. Jon Echols (R-OKC) and Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) provides that municipal zoning decisions are legislative in nature and valid unless the challenging party proves the ordinance lacks a substantial relation to the public health, safety, or general welfare of the public in light of objective and relevant facts, or if the decision constitutes an unreasonable, arbitrary exercise of police power. If the validity of a challenged zoning ordinance or zoning decision is fairly debatable, in light of objective and relevant facts, the legislative judgment of the municipality must stand. The bill also establishes that municipal platting decisions are quasi-judicial in nature and gives the Planning Commission and the City Council of a municipality the discretion to determine a plats compliance with regulations, codes, and ordinances. In the case of a preliminary or final plat denial, the objecting governing body member is required to identify their basis for denial. Comprehensive plans are allowed to be used as a guide when making zoning or plat decisions, but decisions are required to be based on objective and relevant facts and the municipal code.

The bill has been assigned to the House Conference Committee on Government Modernization and Technology. The Senate conferees are: Daniels, Floyd, Howard, McCortney and Paxton.

[OML's Municipal Judge Certification Sent to Governor Stitt](#)

On Wednesday, the Senate voted unanimously by a [vote](#) of 44 to 0 to send [SB 462](#) by Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) and Rep. Josh West (R-Grove) to the Governor. The bill prohibits appointing persons who are not a licensed attorney as a municipal judge beginning July 1, 2026. Non-attorney judges who were appointed prior to July 1, 2026, can continue to be reappointed if they complete the required certification program. The bill also allows municipal judges in cities with a population of more than two hundred thousand (200,000) people to engage in the practice of law in any other court during their tenure. The bill requires all current municipal judges to complete a certification program approved by the Oklahoma Municipal Judges Association by July 1, 2026. Municipal judges appointed after July 1, 2026, will have one (1) year to complete the certification program. If a municipal judge fails to complete their certification, the maximum fine a municipal court can impose on all traffic and criminal cases is Fifty Dollars (\$50.00). Municipal judges must file their Oklahoma Municipal Judge certifications with the county clerk and municipal court clerk. The bill also clarifies that a municipal judge in a court not of record is not an "officer" of the municipality according to Title 11 Section 1-102 and is not to be considered a state officer for the purpose of Title 51 Section 6. All municipal judges, including nonlawyer judges, are subject to the code of judicial conduct and legal ethics.

[Governor Stitt Shoots Down Crime Bill](#)

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.

Governor Stitt vetoed the bill on Tuesday stating that it would significantly expand the type of crimes that would qualify as an “85% crime” under Oklahoma law.

The rest of the [veto](#) message can be read here.

[Bills Signed by Gov. Stitt](#)

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 takes effect on November 1, 2023.

Oklahoma 9-1-1 Management Authority/Haiden Fleming Memorial Act: [HB 1590](#) by Rep. Jim Grego (R-Wilburton) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) creates the Haiden Fleming Memorial Act. The bill 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 as well as coordinate and collaborate with local and regional 9-1-1 training authorities. 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 takes effect on November 1, 2023.

Workers' Compensation/Increase in Death Benefits: [HB 1738](#) by Rep. Tammy Townley (R-Ardmore) and Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Lone Grove) increases the death benefits for a surviving spouse if there is more than one (1) child but less than five (5) children, each child shall receive a lump-sum payment of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) and a pro rata share of thirty percent (30%) of the deceased employee's average weekly wage for claims with a date of accident occurring on or after the effective date of this act. If there are more than five (5) or more children, each child shall

receive a pro rata share of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) up from Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00).

The bill takes effect on January 1, 2024.

Court Cost Compliance Program: [HB 2259](#) by Rep. Danny Sterling (R-Tecumseh) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) establishes a court cost compliance program beginning November 1, 2023. The program shall assist county sheriffs and the courts with the collection of fines, costs, fees, and assessments associated with any case in which a warrant has been issued and the case has been referred to the court cost compliance program. Individuals may make payments for such items to the court or to the program. The court shall report any payments received from any individual referred to the program within 4 (4) days of the payment. compliance liaison within four (4) days of receipt of the payment. The bill adds returned checks and fraudulent use of credit card fees. Monthly payments shall be no less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00). The court may also determine the financial ability of a defendant to pay associated fines and fees. If the court determines the defendant is unable to pay, the court may waive associated fines and fees. A defendant may request a cost hearing after the court informs him or her of the total court financial obligations owed or if life circumstances for the defendant have changed. Court clerks are directed to review cases of delinquency once every six (6) months.

The bill takes effect on November 1, 2023.

Opioid Substitution Treatment Program: [HB 2686](#) by Rep. Rick West (R-Heavner) and Sen. George Burns (R-Pollard) creates the Hannah McKenzie Act of 2023. The bill 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 went into effect on May 15, 2023.

OWRB/Upgrades to the Port of Inola: [HB 2888](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Rep. Ryan Martinez (R-Edmond) and Sen. Roger Thompson (R-Okemah) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) appropriates to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) the sum of Thirty-Eight Million, Six Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$38,620,000.00) or so much therefor as may be necessary for upgrades to the water and wastewater systems, located in Northeast Oklahoma along an inland waterway that supplies water and wastewater to major supply chain locations.

The bill went into effect on May 17, 2023.

Economic Incentives/Solar: [SB 1177](#) by Sen. Roger Thompson (R-Okemah) and Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) creates the Perform Act. The bill creates an investment rebate program for the cost of qualified capital expenditures by an establishment that creates a certain number of jobs based on the number of investment rebate payments. The number scales from one hundred (100) jobs after the first payment to one thousand four hundred (1,400) jobs after the fifth payment. The amount of the rebate shall equal ten percent (10%) of the cost of the qualified capital expenditures. Caps are established on each claim based on the number of investment rebate payments. Rebates shall be disbursed using the newly created Perform Fund. The program shall be administered by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and Oklahoma Tax Commission. The Department shall be required to submit an annual report every October 1st detailing the program and investment rebate payments to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House, the Chair of both the Senate and House Appropriations Committees, and the Executive Director of the Legislative Office of Fiscal Transparency. The Department shall approve applications meeting the requirements outlined in the bill and direct the Commission to disburse the funds to the qualifying entity. disapprove all or any portion of applications

and claims for rebates that would exceed the balance of available funds in the Perform Fund.

The bill went into effect on May 17, 2023.

Economic Development/Perform Fund: [SB 1179](#) by Sen. Roger Thompson (R-Okemah) and Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) appropriates One Hundred Eighty Million Dollars (\$180,000,000.00) to the Perform Fund.

The bill went into effect on May 17, 2023.

[Bills Sent to Gov. Stitt's Desk](#)

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 House on Monday by a [vote](#) of 94 to 0 and sent to the Governor on Tuesday.

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 may 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 House on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 92 to 5 and was sent to the Governor.

Oklahoma Flood and Drought Management Task Force: [HB 2293](#) by Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Mulhall) and Sen. Darcy Jech (R-Kingfisher) creates the Oklahoma Flood and Drought Management Task Force into two groups, the management group and the advisory group. The management group consists of state agencies. The advisory group is comprised of designees of the following state associations and entities: OML, ACCO, and ORWA. The advisory group shall include the resources of all remaining state agencies and departments available to provide advice and assistance to the Oklahoma Flood and Drought Management Task Force, including the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The Task Force shall have the following duties: 1) develop and recommend state drought and flood response, recovery, and mitigation initiatives; 2) identify drought and flood management areas in the state; 3) provide coordination and communication among federal, state, and local entities as deemed appropriate for drought and flood assistance programs, education, and information; and perform such drought- and flood-related assessments and response functions as deemed necessary. Beginning 2025, and every ten (10) years after, in conjunction with the update of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan and the State Flood Plan, OWRB shall coordinate with the Task Force to update the Oklahoma Drought Management Plan.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 90 to 3 and sent to the Governor on Wednesday.

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 House on May 11 by a [vote](#) of 83-0 and was sent to the Governor on Monday.

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 House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 86 to 0 and sent to the Governor on Wednesday.

Law Enforcement/CLEET: [HB 2869](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) gives the Council on Law Enforcement Education Training (CLEET) the authority to purchase a passenger automobile or bus with public funds. Additionally, the Director of CLEET is authorized to hire an Assistant Director to perform such duties as directed by the Executive Director.

The bill passed the House on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 94 to 0 and was sent to the Governor.

Law Enforcement/School Resource Officer Program: [HB 2903](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (Wellston) and Sen. Roger Thompson (R-Okemah) requires the State Department of Education (Department) to establish a three-year pilot program called the School Resource Officer Program. The School Resource Officers (SROs) participating in the program must complete active shooter emergency response training provided by CLEET. An SRO is defined as a law enforcement officer with training in school-based law enforcement and crisis response. The measure establishes a School Security Revolving Fund. The Department may use money in the Fund to establish the School Resource Officer Program and provide physical security enhancements for schools. Expenditures from the fund may not exceed Fifty Million Dollars (\$50,000,000.00) per year.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 90 to 9. The bill passed the Senate today by a [vote](#) of 43 to 1.

Law Enforcement/School Resource Officer/Appropriation: [HB 2904](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Sen. Roger Thompson (R-Okemah) appropriates One Hundred Fifty Million Dollars (\$150,000,000.00) for the School Security Revolving Fund to cover the costs associated with the implementation of HB 2903 creating the School Resource Office Program.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 98 to 1. The bill passed the Senate today by a [vote](#) of 46 to 0.

[Bills on the Move](#)

Snapshot of bills impacting cities and towns

With only one week left in this Legislative Session, the Legislature's focus on bills has been mainly to reject amendments and send the bills to conference. The deadline to get bills out of conference has yet to be determined.

Oklahoma Crime Reclassification Act of 2023: [HB 1792](#) by Rep. Mike Osburn (R-Edmond) and Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) creates the Oklahoma Crime Reclassification Act of 2023. The bill establishes a classification for all felony criminal offenses provided for in the Oklahoma Statutes and sets forth maximum fines for each classification.

Conferees have been named: Bullard, Daniels, Floyd, Hall, Howard, Jech, and Rader.

OWRB/Groundwater Permits: [HB 2053](#) by Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) provides if the Board's final action to approve an application is appealed, the applicant may take and use groundwater as is set forth under the permit while any appeals are pending with the Board, in district court, or in the appellate courts. For a court to enjoin the approved use of groundwater pending appeal, appellants must show a high likelihood of success on the merits, that there is clear and convincing evidence that they will suffer irreparable harm, that the balance of the equity's tips significantly in their favor, and that

the order is clearly in the public interest. Any preliminary injunctive relief must be narrowly drawn up, extend no further than necessary to correct the harm the court finds requires preliminary relief, and be the least intrusive means necessary to correct that harm. For sole source aquifers, if the Board's final action to approve an application is appealed, a district court may enjoin the approved use of groundwater pending appeal by appellants showing any one of the following: 1. Appellants must show a high likelihood of success on the merit; 2. That there is clear and convincing evidence that they will suffer irreparable harm; 3. That the balance of the equities tips significantly in their favor; or 4. That the order is clearly in the public interest. If all statutory requirements for groundwater permits are fulfilled and the Board approves the application, appeals seeking to prohibit the use of water based solely on the industry or entity applying to use the water are considered to have no genuine issue as to any material fact and shall be dismissed pursuant to Section 2056 of Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Further, if such claims are found to be frivolous, the court may impose sanctions against the appellant, the appellant's attorney, or both including requiring the appellant or the appellant's attorney to reimburse the appellee for reasonable costs and expenses such as reasonable attorney fees and other expenses incurred as a result of the appeal.

The bill has been signed out of the House and Senate conference committees. It may now be considered by the House.

OWRB/Appropriations: [HB 2942](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Sen. Roger Thompson (R-Okemah) appropriates to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) to establish grant programs that facilitate the design, construction, and maintenance of water and wastewater infrastructure, and to

improve the condition of publicly owned, deficient dams regulated by OWRB. Such funds shall be utilized in a manner consistent with the recommendations adopted by the Joint Committee on Pandemic Relief Funding on May 11, 2023.

- OWRB is authorized to expend Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) for a grant program for communities with a population of seven thousand (7,000) or less as reported in the most recent Federal Decennial Census published by the United States Bureau of the Census or to rural water districts with less than 2,300 non-pasture taps for projects that meet the federal eligibility requirements of the U.S. Treasury's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Final Rule for water and wastewater investments. administering the program.
- OWRB is authorized to expend Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000.00) for a grant program for communities with a population greater than seven thousand (7,000) as reported in the most recent Federal Decennial Census published by the United States Bureau of the Census or to rural water districts with more than 2,300 non-pasture taps for projects that meet the federal eligibility requirements of the U.S. Treasury's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Final Rule for water and wastewater investments.
- Oklahoma Water Resources Board is hereby authorized to expend One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for a grant program for communities that own dams with the latest condition assessment of poor or unsatisfactory. Priority for funding shall be given to communities that have a population of less than seven thousand (7,000) as reported in the most recent Federal Decennial Census published by the United States Bureau of the Census.

OWRB is appropriated the following amounts from the Statewide Recovery Fund to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board for the following purposes:

- Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000.00) to establish a grant program that matches tribal

investment in rural water infrastructure projects, and

- Million One Hundred Eighty-three Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-four Dollars (\$3,183,434.00) for statewide strategic water infrastructure projects.

The Board may reserve not more than four percent (4%) from this expenditure authority for purposes of the program. OWRB is required to submit quarterly reports on such funds.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 96 to 1. The bill heads to the Senate.

Preemption/Internal Combustion Engines & Gas Stoves: [SB 202](#) by Sen. Nathan Dahm (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Jon Echols (R-OKC) prohibits the state or any political subdivision from outlawing the use of internal combustion engines and gas fueled stoves. The rights of individuals in Oklahoma to use internal combustion engines and gas fueled stoves shall be protected in Oklahoma. Provided, the provisions of this section shall not apply to any university, college, institutional governing board, or other institution of higher learning with The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

Senate conferees have been named: Dahm, Daniels, Floyd, Garvin, Haste, Montgomery, and Paxton.

Medical Marijuana/MOU's for Equipment Usage: [SB 239](#) by Sen. Jack Stewart (R-Yukon) and Rep. Josh Cantrell (R-Kingston) allows municipalities, political subdivisions, and counties to enter into agreements or memoranda of understanding with state agencies which respond to search and seizure activities of marijuana to compensate municipalities, political subdivisions, or counties for the use of county or municipal equipment used during search and seizure events. The rate of reimbursement shall not be higher than the federal schedule rate for equipment usage.

Senate conferees have been named: Coleman, Garvin, Matthews, Paxton, and Stewart.

Law Enforcement/School Emergency Alert System: [SB 428](#) by Sen. John Montgomery (R-Lawton) and Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) requires each public school district to have and implement a school security alert and response system. The State Board of Education shall adopt a list of approved school security alert and response systems. At a minimum, an approved school security alert and response system shall: 1) automatically alert designated school personnel when an emergency response is initiated on-site by smartphone application, phone call, text message, or other technology; 2) provide emergency responders with floor plans, caller location, and other information to assist emergency responders during a 911 call; and 3) integrate designated school personnel with emergency responders to provide real-time situational updates during an emergency.

The bill has been signed by the Senate conferees and was opened for signatures in the House Conference Committee on Education on Thursday.

DEQ/Nuclear Energy Feasibility Study: [SB 847](#) by Sen. Nathan Dahm (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) requires DEQ, on or before January 1, 2025, in coordination with the Office of the Secretary of Energy and Environment to conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing nuclear facilities in this state. The study shall include the state requirements as specified by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission and any method federal agency approval. DEQ shall issue a report based on its findings and deliver to the Governor, Speaker, Pro Tempore, Chair of Senate Energy, and Chair of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee no later than February 1, 2025.

Senate conferees have been named: Dahm, Dossett, Green, Jett, and Paxton.

Oklahoma Broadband Expansion Act/Map Data: [SB 849](#) by Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) and Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Lawton) modifies reporting requirements for private providers network area coverage map data. The private providers shall submit to the Oklahoma Broadband Office (Office) within five (5) days of the submission deadlines set by the FCC a copy of the data in the same format as

the private providers submit to FCC. The map data shall be periodically updated through a supplemental submission by the private providers as requested by the Office, including, but not limited to any updates relating to incentives and grants created, administered, or awarded by the Office. The Office is authorized to establish requirements for the collection of the area coverage map reports. All information submitted under this measure must remain confidential and cannot be publicly disclosed without the provider's consent.

The Senate rejected the House amendments on Thursday and will send the bill to conference.