

02-24

February 16, 2024

In This Issue:

| | |
|--|----|
| Leaders Continue to Push Tax Cuts after BOE Report | 1 |
| Pro Tempore Treat's Workers' Comp Bills Pass This Week | 2 |
| Bills on the Move | 2 |
| Next Week at the Capitol | 12 |



Leaders Continue Push for Tax Cuts after BOE Report

Yesterday the Oklahoma Board of Equalization released the estimated numbers that the Legislature will use as they go through the budgeting process. The numbers came in higher than expected from December. With the figures presented the three leaders under the dome have talked about a way to help Oklahoma citizens.

Governor Kevin Stitt has proposed doing both the state grocery sales tax elimination and income tax cut bills. The income tax cut is a high priority for Speaker Charles McCall, but he also thinks the State could provide a tax cut in the state portion of grocery taxes. Pro Tempore Greg Treat wants to only do an elimination of the state portion of the grocery sales tax.

As reported last week, there are several proposals to remove the state portion of sales tax on groceries. There is also a carryover bill from last session - [HB 1955](#) by Speaker McCall and Sen. David Bullard that the Governor specifically mentioned in his weekly press availability. This bill eliminates the 4.5 percent state sales tax on the retail sale of food and food ingredients. The bill states that any sales tax or excise tax levied by a city, town, county, or any other jurisdiction in this state upon sales of food and food ingredients shall be in effect regardless of ordinance or contractual provisions referring to previously imposed state sales tax on the items. The bill puts a moratorium on municipalities and counties from increasing their grocery sales tax through June 30, 2025.

The Advocate is published by the Oklahoma Municipal League. Forward your comments or suggestions to:

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OML will continue to share your concerns with the leadership in the House and Senate as well as the Governor as the discussions to bring tax relief to Oklahomans continues throughout this legislative session.

Pro Tempore Treat's Workers' Compensation Bills Pass This Week

President Pro Tempore Greg Treat (R-OKC) passed two bills this week dealing with Workers' Compensation in Senate Retirement and Insurance Committee along with a bill in Senate Judiciary Committee. Both bills passed unanimously in their respective committees without comments or questions.

SB 1457 adds a mental injury for a first responder who suffers post-traumatic stress disorder while responding to an emergency to be compensable. The bill defines "first responders". 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 shall be entitled to receive compensation which is the greater of the weekly benefit provided for in a collective bargaining agreement or according to the policy of the employer, or seventy percent (70%) of the injured employees average weekly wage not to exceed the state average weekly wage. If the employee has a temporary pension benefit available at no additional cost to the employee 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. In no event shall the disability benefits extend beyond fifty-two (52) weeks). A first responder who receives benefits for a mental injury or illness not accompanied by a physical injury who, after reaching maximum medical improvement, is unable to perform the essential functions of his or her employment position and who is not eligible to receive a disability retirement through his or her pension or retirement system shall be eligible to be awarded permanent disability benefits not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00). In the event that the Workers Compensation Commission finds that a first responder has suffered PTSD not accompanied by a physical injury, the employer shall provide reasonable and necessary medical treatment for

such injury, subject to the Commissions Fee Schedule, for a period not longer than one (1) year. The employer shall not be responsible for medical treatment in the form of prescription medicine in excess of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00).

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

SB 1456 directs the Court of Civil Appeals to establish the Court of Existing Claims (CEC) Division of the Court of Civil Appeals which shall be vested with jurisdiction over all claims filed pursuant to the Workers Compensation Code or previous statute in effect on the date of an injury that occurred before February 1, 2014. In no event does the CEC Division have jurisdiction over any claim arising on or after the effective date of this act. The Division shall consist of one judge who currently serves as a member of the Court of Civil Appeals on a rotational basis as determined by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The bill directs the CEC to contract with the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission to pay for the integration, maintenance, and upgrade of the system.

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

BILLS ON THE MOVE:

Water and Water Rights/Water Usage: **HB 2197** by Rep. Dick Lowe (R-Amber) requires permit holders to report their annual water use to OWRB in a manner provided by the Board. The water use report shall provide the permit holder with an opportunity to explain any nonuse of the water allocated by the permit. In addition to the procedure for individual proceedings, OWRB is authorized to promulgate rules for reporting stream water used and the approval of excused nonuse of stream water. Failure to report annual water usage may result in cancellation of the permit by OWRB upon proper notice and hearing. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Executive Director of OWRB may issue administrative orders requiring the

immediate cessation of water use when Board staff has a reasonable belief the use is unauthorized or continued use will damage rights of prior appropriators. Such administrative orders shall indicate the finding of imminent peril and shall specify the actions that are to be taken immediately. In addition, the orders shall specify a time and place for a hearing to be held after such actions are taken.

The bill passed the House Agriculture Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Preemption/Centralized Mail Delivery: [HB 3020](#) by Rep. Denise Crosswhite-Hader (R-Piedmont) prohibits centralized mail delivery and centralized mail delivery devices in new one and two-family dwelling neighborhoods, as well as townhouse neighborhoods. The bill provides exceptions for any existing neighborhood that has centralized delivery devices prior to November 1, 2024. Other than enforcement of zoning requirements in a historic district and except as provided under this section, no local government or municipality shall adopt any additional requirements by ordinance or regulation pertaining to the establishment of centralized mail delivery or the installation of centralized mail delivery devices.

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

Ambulance Districts/Motor Fuel Tax Exemption: [HB 3031](#) by Rep. Cody Maynard (R-Durant) and Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) exempts Oklahoma ambulance districts established under Section 9C of Article X of the Oklahoma Constitution from motor fuel taxes.

The bill passed the House A&B Finance Subcommittee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the House A&B Committee.

Energy/Southwest Power Pool: [HB 3053](#) by Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) requires the Secretary of Energy and Environment to lead the evaluation of the regulatory and statutory frameworks governing the relationship between the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and the State of Oklahoma. The objective is to prepare a comprehensive report containing

recommendations aimed at enhancing the benefits for electricity ratepayers in Oklahoma by assessing the impact of the SPP on Oklahoma's electricity infrastructure and recommending improvements.

The bill passed the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 16 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Law Enforcement/Bernardo-Mills Law: [HB 3065](#) by Rep. Neil Hays (R-Checotah) Sen. Blake Stephens (R-Tahlequah) requires drivers to take certain precautionary maneuvers when passing a stationary vehicle displaying flashing lights, failure to do so constituting roadway endangerment. Stationary vehicle includes any stationary vehicle, authorized emergency vehicle, Department of Transportation maintenance vehicle, Oklahoma Turnpike Authority maintenance vehicle, a service vehicle belonging to a utility company, or a licensed wrecker that is displaying flashing amber lights, a combination red or blue lights, or any combination of amber, red or blue lights.

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

Noxious Weeds: [HB 3186](#) by Rep. Kenton Patzkowsky (R-Balko) and Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) adds musk thistles, Scotch thistles, poison hemlock and Kudzu as a noxious weed. It is the duty of every public, private or corporate landowner to treat, control, or eradicate these thistles, poison hemlock, and Kudzu growing on any property owned by the landowner.

The bill passed the House Agriculture Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Water Wells/Metering: [HB 3194](#) by Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) authorizes OWRB to require that all water wells requiring a permit to take and use groundwater from OWRB be equipped with water well flow meters or an alternative measuring system as defined by the Board. Such measuring systems shall remain on the well and be in proper operating condition at all times when groundwater is being produced. Data from the measuring system shall be utilized for the annual groundwater use

report. OWRB may also require the applicant to report the reading of such meters or alternative measuring systems.

The bill passed the House Energy & Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 1. The bill moves to the House floor.

Municipal Boundary Lines/Traffic Regulation: [HB 3213](#) by Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) specifies that when any portion of a dedicated road, street, or highway, as dedicated by a plat map or deed or Oklahoma Organic Act of 1890 reserved right-of-way, touches the municipal limits of a city or town, the entire portion of the dedicated road, street, or highway shall form the boundary line for purposes of this section regardless of the location of the paved portion of the road, street, or highway.

The bill passed the House County & Municipal Government Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Law Enforcement/Dual Office Holdings: [HB 3557](#) by Rep. Gerrid Kendrix (R-Altus) allows any person who performs services as a law enforcement officer:

- a. for no more than two (2) municipalities neither of which shall have a population in excess of eight thousand (8,000) persons according to the federal Decennial Census or most recent population estimate if the municipalities have entered into an agreement or memorandum of understanding regarding the services to be performed by the officer and any matters related to compensation or benefits,
- or b. for no more than one county the population of which is not greater than twenty-five thousand (25,000) persons and one municipality the population of which is not greater than eight thousand (8,000) persons both such populations to be determined according to the federal Decennial Census or most recent population estimate if the county and the municipality have entered into an agreement or memorandum of understanding regarding the services to be performed by the officer and any matters related to compensation or benefits.

For purposes of this paragraph, the population of any county and any municipality shall be determined as of the date of the agreement or memorandum of understanding and subsequent increases in population which occur during the term

of the agreement or memorandum of understanding shall not be the basis for termination of such agreement or the basis for any proceeding to invalidate the agreement.

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

Correctional Facility Siting/Schools: [HB 3758](#) by Rep. Josh Cantrell (R-Kingston) prohibits any state, county or municipal correctional facility including any inmate work center, inmate drug offender work camp, inmate halfway house, inmate transitional living center and any other place where state, county or municipal inmates are housed, built after November 1, 2024, shall be located within two thousand (2,000) feet of any public or private elementary or secondary school nor within two thousand five hundred (2,500) feet of any secure facility for juveniles. The distance shall be measured from the nearest property line of the school to the nearest property line of the correctional facility.

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.

Fire Departments/Burn Ban Signage: [HB 3763](#) by Rep. Josh Cantrell (R-Kingston) requires all fire departments and/or appropriate county officials to place "Burn Ban" signs on agreed-upon signposts controlled by ODOT and Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA). Fire departments and/or appropriate county officials shall work with ODOT to agree upon locations for signage. ODOT shall develop standards that fire departments and/or appropriate county officials shall adhere to in placing signage. It shall be the responsibility of the entity placing the sign to post and remove signage in a timely manner. Signage shall not obstruct the view of traffic. Signage costs shall be the responsibility of the fire department and/or county wishing to install.

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.

Open Meeting Act/Video Conferencing and Teleconferencing: [HB 3780](#) by Rep. Collin Duel (R-Guthrie) eliminates the language pertaining to the use of teleconferencing and video conferencing during a state of emergency to respond to the threat of COVID-19.

The bill passed the House General Government Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

OK Urban and Innovative Advancement Act: [HB 3829](#) by Rep. Arturo Alonso-Sandoval (D-OKC) creates the Oklahoma Urban and Innovative Advancement Act. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission must establish and administer a grant program to support urban farming, community gardens and innovative agriculture projects in urban and suburban areas. The Commission shall promulgate rules and adopt eligibility guidelines necessary to enforce and administer the Oklahoma Urban and Innovative Agriculture Advancement Act, including the application process for grants. Entities eligible to apply for grants are nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and local government entities in Oklahoma.

The bill passed the House A&B Natural Resources Subcommittee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 0. The bill moves to the House A&B Committee.

Open Meeting Act/Public Notice: [HB 3937](#) by Rep. Melissa Provenzano (D-Tulsa) strikes expired provisions from the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act that allowed public bodies to meet by teleconference during the threat of COVID-19. The bill clarifies that all state public bodies are to post meeting information at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to regularly scheduled meetings by posting the date, time, place and agenda for the meeting in prominent public view at the principal office of the public body or at the location of the meeting if not office exists, and posting on the public body's Internet website the date, time, place and agenda for the meeting.

The bill passed the House General Government Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Public Pools: [HB 4035](#) by Rep. Tammy Townley (R-Ardmore) and Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow)

requires the State Department of Health to establish regulations for public pools and spas. The Department shall not regulate: 1) spray pads, spray grounds, or splash pads intended for use by children in which the water is supplied by a system of sprays and does not accumulate above ground; 2) pools located at private residences; 3) pools run by Homeowner's Association where pools or spas are limited to use by the homeowner group and their nonpaying guests; and 4) public and semipublic pools where the main objective is the external cleansing of the body. The State Commissioner of Health is authorized to create rules ensuring safety and sanitation, set fees, and define penalties for non-compliance. The bill sets the cost for construction permit applications and operation license applications at Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for municipalities with a population of five thousand (5,000) or less, according to the latest Federal Decennial Census. The bill requires public pool owners to apply for construction permits via a form designated by the Department, base designs on the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code, possess an annual license, and allow Department inspections. Pools found non-compliant during consecutive inspections may be considered a public nuisance and permanently closed. These pools shall be considered permanently closed by the municipality in which the public pool is located. Municipalities may secure permanently closed public pools and spas and charge the costs against the taxes of the owner. Permanently closed pools must go through the licensure or construction permit process before reopening to the public. The bill repeals 63 O.S. 2021, Sections 1-1013, 1-1013.1, 1-1013.2, 1-1014, 1-1015, 1-1016, 1-1016A, 1-1016B, 1-1017, 1-1018, 1-1019, 1-1020, 1-1020.1, and 1-1021.

The bill passed the House A&B Health Subcommittee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill passed the House A&B Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 33 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Rural County Economic Development Organization of 2024: [HB 4070](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) creates the Rural County Economic Development Organization of 2024. It provides the process and parameters of the Organization. Any county, with a

population of one hundred thousand (100,000) or less pursuant to the last preceding Federal Decennial Census of this state, may levy a sales tax not to exceed seventy-five hundredths of one percent (.75%) upon the gross proceeds or gross receipts derived from all sales or services in the county upon which a consumer's sales tax is levied. Before the sales tax may be levied by the county, the imposition of the tax shall first be approved by a majority of the registered voters of the county voting thereon at a special election called by the county commissioners.

The bill passed as [amended](#) in the House A&B Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 31 to 1. The bill moves to the House floor.

Retail Electric Service: [HB 4093](#) by Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Lawton) requires any retail electric service supplier, not excluded by Section 158.28 of this title, that intends to provide retail electric service to a new electric-consuming facility within the certified territory of another retail electric service provider to notify that incumbent retail electric service provider and Public Utility District (PUD), either in writing or by electronic mail, no less than fifteen (15) business days prior to a contract for service, written or verbal, being made between the non-incumbent retail electric service provider and the new electric-consuming facility. Upon request by the new electric-consuming facility, information contained in the notice shall be maintained confidentially by the incumbent retail electric service provider and arrangements shall be made with PUD to allow such information to remain confidential. This notice shall provide information including, but not limited to, the following: 1. A specific description of the anticipated location of the new electric-consuming facility by Global Positioning System coordinates to allow clear identification of the new facility's location, and the identification of the certified territory of the retail electric service provider. 2. A specific description of the planned size of the connected load for initial full operation to be added. 3. Identification of the tariff, on file with PUD, under which the retail electric supplier intends to serve the electric-consuming facility.

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

Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Investment Program: [SB 1331](#) by Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) authorizes OWRB to establish and administer a Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Investment Program. The Program shall include development of competitive loans for eligible entities seeking to develop and implement water or wastewater improvement projects. OWRB shall promulgate rules to effectuate the provisions of this act and loan criteria for the Program. Of the monies appropriated to the fund, OWRB may use not more than Fifty Million Dollars (\$50,000,000.00) for enhancements, leveraging and reserve capacities for the OWRB loan and grant programs, system evaluation and risk assessment assistance, and long-range infrastructure planning. Loan monies shall be allocated based on the most current census data available and shall be as follows: 1) twenty-five percent (25%) for approved projects located within a municipality or county with a population of more than four hundred thousand (400,000) or the equivalent thereof for other eligible entities as prescribed by OWRB; 2) twenty-five percent (25%) for approved projects located within a municipality or county with a population that is greater than thirty thousand (30,000); and 3) fifty percent (50%) for approved projects located within a municipality or county with a population of less than thirty thousand (30,000). There is appropriated to the Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Investment Revolving Fund the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Million Dollars (\$250,000,000.00).

The bill passed the Senate Energy & Telecommunications Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Volunteer Firefighter Group Insurance Pool: [SB 1333](#) by Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) and Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Lawton) applies only to workers compensation claims for volunteer firefighters incurred prior to the effective date of this act. No later than the effective date of this act, the Volunteer Firefighter Group Insurance Pool shall be transferred to the Office of Management and

Enterprise Services (OMES) Comprehensive Professional Risk Management Program. Provided, existing reserves from the Pool shall remain with CompSource Mutual Insurance Company for the purpose of managing claims incurred prior to the effective date of this act. All claims incurred on and after the effective date of this act shall be administered by (OMES). OMES may contract with a third-party administrator or hire up to two (2) full-time employees to administer the Pool. OMES shall collect a premium of One Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$120.00) per firefighter from state agencies, public trusts, and other instrumentalities of the state. Any funds received by OMES from any state agency, public trust, or other instrumentality for purposes of workers compensation insurance shall be deposited to the credit of the Volunteer Firefighter Group Insurance Pool. OMES shall collect premiums, pay claims, and provide excess insurance as needed. The bill directs the Office to submit an electronic report to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and Governor detailing the number of enrollees in the Pool and the amount of any anticipated surplus or deficiency of the Pool. Notice shall also be provided by the Office to the listed entities of any proposed change in rates for the Pool. The bill provides that the amount of claims aid, claim expenses, underwriting losses, loss ratio, or any other financial aspect of the Pool shall not be considered when determining or considering bids. The bill also creates the Volunteer Firefighter Group Insurance Pool Revolving Fund.

The bill passed the Senate Retirement and Insurance Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Texting While Driving/Court Costs: [SB 1347](#) by Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) specifies that a person operating a vehicle in motion may not use a hand-held electronic communication device or cellular telephone to compose a text message. Such persons are also prohibited from holding a cellular telephone. The bill specifies that the fine, upon conviction, shall not exceed Five Dollars (\$5.00) and court costs shall not exceed Ninety-five (\$95.00). The court clerk shall collect the fine, costs and fees and direct their distribution to the Sheriff's Service Fee Account, Office of the Attorney General, Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Account, the CLEET Fund,

Forensic Science Improvement Revolving Fund, Department of Public Safety Patrol Vehicle Revolving Fund, Court Clerk's Revolving Fund, District Court Revolving Fund, and General Revenue Fund.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Oklahoma Ports Infrastructure Revolving Fund: [SB 1429](#) by Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Nicole Miller (R-Edmond) creates the Oklahoma Ports Infrastructure Revolving Fund (OPIRF). Such monies shall include but not limited to: monies received by ODOT for waterway projects or infrastructure projects at public water ports; principal and interest and penalty payments on loans made directly from appropriated monies in the fund; and any other sums deposited into the fund from any public or private source. The monies placed in the OPIRF shall be invested by the State Treasurer. Income and earnings from the fund shall accrue to the fund and may be used for the purposes provided for in this section. Any interest earned shall be deposited in the OPIRF. A qualified project shall: 1) enhance the safe and efficient operation of the commercial waterway systems of this state; or 2) repair, improve, or construct waterway or industrial park infrastructure located at or within waterway ports of this state that are determined to provide a public benefit. Projects must be developed in coordination with the United States Army Corps of Engineers and all Indian tribes with an ownership interest in the riverbed of the Arkansas River when necessary. ODOT is authorized to issue loans from the Fund and grant an amount not exceeding ten percent (10%) of the funds available in the OPIRF during any one (1) year for qualified projects. ODOT shall promulgate rules necessary to effectuate this act. ODOT shall also promulgate rules to ensure any grants or loans made from the OPIRF are made at market-competitive terms.

The bill passed the Senate Aeronautics and Transportation Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Sales Tax/Heavy Equipment Rental Fees: [SB 1438](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) and Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) provides that a company primarily in the business of renting heavy equipment property classified under 532412 or 532310 of the 2017 NAICS; located in this state may include as a separate line item on the rental invoice a recovery fee of one and twenty-five hundredths percent (1.25%) on the rental charge from any item of heavy equipment property rental by a customer. On or before February 15, each rental business that collects the equipment rental recovery fee shall be required to electronically submit to OTC a consolidated report showing the aggregated personal property taxes paid in the state in the previous calendar year and the aggregated recovery collections. If the aggregated recovery collections in the state exceed the aggregated taxes paid in the state, the aggregate excess shall be paid to the county treasurers. The amount of excess paid to each county treasurer shall be a pro rata distribution based on the amount of personal property tax paid by the business to each county in the previous calendar year in relation to the total personal property tax paid in this state in the previous calendar year. No excess collections shall be retained by the business. Revenues from the fee may be used to pay personal property taxes. The recovery fee shall not apply to the rental of heavy equipment property to the federal government, any federally recognized Indian tribe, the state, or any municipality or county. The recovery fee shall not be subject to state or local sales taxes.

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

Law Enforcement/Retail Theft: [SB 1450](#) by Sen. Pro Tempore Greg Treat (R-OKC) provides that actions relating to theft, retail theft, or larceny shall constitute organized retail crime when two (2) or more of the following circumstances occur: if the property taken is intended for resale, if multiple people acted jointly to take the property, the persons taking the property used tools, the persons taking the property use an alternate exit, the persons taking the property have a means of getaway, the persons taking the property disable antitheft measures, the persons taking the property use a container, or the

persons taking the property use a getaway driver. Violations of this section shall be punished, and the person shall be ordered to pay restitution to the victim. The bill authorizes the Office of the Attorney General to employ officers to serve on the Oklahoma Organized Retail Crime Task Force to prevent, investigate, and prosecute criminal violations related to organized retail crime.

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

OK Public Infrastructure Districts Act: [SB 1469](#) by Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) authorizes the municipalities to send to the vote of the people a question implementing public infrastructure districts. The bill is contingent on the passage of SJR 16. It requires one hundred percent (100%) of the registered voters within the applicable area approving the creation of the public infrastructure district. Municipalities are authorized to impose limitations on such districts using the governing document as well as to establish approval criteria for the creation of such districts. Such districts shall be considered separate and distinct from a municipality as it relates to liability. The legislative body of the municipality that approved the creation of a public infrastructure district shall appoint the initial members of the board governing the district. Such districts are authorized to issue bonds to pay for improved facilities, acquire, or complete public improvements, or improve public transportation. The public infrastructure district bonds may be issued in denominations of not less than Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00). Such districts may levy a property tax not to exceed ten (10) mills. The municipality shall retain authority over all zoning, planning, design specifications and design approvals, and permitting within the public infrastructure district. A person who contests a tax or fee or any proceeding to create a public infrastructure district, levy a tax, or impose a fee may bring a civil action in the district court of the county in which the public infrastructure district is located against such district or the municipality to: 1) set aside the proceeding; or 2) enjoin the levy, imposition, or collection of a tax or fee.

The bill passed the Senate General Government Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 5 to 3. The bill moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Audits/Homeless Services & Support: [SB 1493](#) by Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) directs the State Auditor and Inspector to conduct a performance audit of spending on homeless programs and services in this state, including expenditures by municipalities and counties with substantial homeless populations, expenditures of federal funds allocated to the state for homeless programs, and expenditures by state and local law enforcement agencies to address homelessness. All local governments are required to cooperate with the audit and grant access, at no cost, to all financial records. Report of such audit shall be provided to the Governor, Pro Tempore and Speaker by December 31, 2024.

The bill passed the Senate General Government Committee on Thursday with the tile stricken by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Law Enforcement/Emergency Management: [SB 1538](#) by Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) provides that any certified law enforcement in the state to assist an emergency management director in the enforcement of any rule, regulation, or order of the emergency management director. Any person willfully violating any rule, regulation, or order of an emergency management director with authority in that jurisdiction and acting in his or her capacity shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Municipal Court Holidays: [SB 1545](#) by Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) and Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) authorizes municipal courts of record to be closed on holidays declared by the municipal governing body on dates when the municipal offices are closed.

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

Revenue/State and Tribal Funding: [SB 1564](#) by Sen. Tom Dugger (R-Stillwater) and Rep. Ty Burns (R-Pawnee) allows cities, counties, towns, and other subdivisions the ability to accept and use state and tribal monies.

The bill passed the Senate General Government Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

(OML Priority) Law Enforcement/Automated License Plate Readers: [SB 1620](#) by Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) authorizes the use of automated license plate reader systems on rights-of-way to aid in criminal investigations or searches for missing or endangered persons. Such devices may not interfere with the free and safe flow of traffic, nor may they be used to enforce state or local traffic violations. Automated license plate reader systems may be used to scan and identify vehicles and associated plates to identify stolen vehicles, vehicles involved in an active investigation, vehicles associated with missing or endangered persons, or vehicles that register as a match within the National Crime Information Center or any other relevant database. Law enforcement agencies must confirm the device meets all requirements outlined in the bill as well as adopt a policy governing the use of such a system. Agencies must also obtain a permit from the DOT to use such a system. The measure specifies that, prior to a law enforcement agent confirming the plate, a positive match by an automated license plate reader system shall not constitute reasonable suspicion as grounds for a traffic stop. Recorded vehicles shall be removed from the system within thirty (30) days of being recorded unless the record is a part of an ongoing investigation. Any agency using such devices shall make available to the public a log of such system use updated on a monthly basis that displays the aggregate number of vehicles scanned as well as the policy for using the system.

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

Public Utilities: [SB 1630](#) by Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) and Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) prohibits a person, corporation, association, state, or other entity to compel or coerce any public utility as defined pursuant to Section 151 of Title 17 of the

Oklahoma Statutes to meet any rule, standard, goal, quota or other effort to regulate or govern the production, transmission, delivery, or furnishing of electric current for light, heat or power or to spread or share the cost for infrastructure of generation methods locate

The bill passed the Senate Energy & Telecommunications Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Attorney General Duties/Human Trafficking: [SB 1649](#) by Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) and Rep. Jon Echols (R-OKC) modifies the duties of the Attorney General to include the following duties: maintain data related to human trafficking and to assist law enforcement, social service agencies, and victim services programs in identifying and supporting victims of human trafficking; enter into memoranda of understanding with any state agency, district attorney, or law enforcement entity as necessary to perform the duties and responsibilities of the Attorney General; and initiate and prosecute criminal actions by information or indictment with all authority and responsibility otherwise provided by statute to district attorneys. The bill also repeals Section 18b of Title 74.

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

Law Enforcement/Sex Offender Housing: [SB 1686](#) by Sen. Nathan Dahm (R-Broken Arrow) requires certified nonprofit facilities that provides access to recovery supportive living housing to registered sex offenders to be certified and permits the Dept. of Corrections to contract for the housing of registered sex offenders within housing in which a sex offender already resides.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

Law Enforcement/Transport: [SB 1706](#) by Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) allows for a reasonable period of time prior to transport without such detention being considered an unnecessary delay. The arresting law enforcement agency shall transport the defendant to the county where the

offense is triable as soon as reasonably practicable. The defendant in custody may be arraigned by the court in which the indictment or information for the arresting offense is filed by videoconference.

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

Law Enforcement/Domestic Violence Reporting: [SB 1722](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) requires a peace officer who learns of domestic abuse committed by another peace officer to provide written notification of the abuse to the supervising officer of the officer committing the abuse as soon as practicable. The supervising officer shall open an investigation and assign an investigator.

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

Election Dates: [SB 1728](#) by Sen. Nathan Dahm (R-Broken Arrow) changes when a regular or special election can be called to including the following dates: 1) the second Tuesday of March in any year other than a presidential election year; 2) the date of the Presidential Preferential Primary election in presidential election year as set forth in Section 20-101 of Title 26; the second Tuesday of June and the second Tuesday of August in an odd-numbered year. Any school district, technology center district, municipality, including any municipality governed by charter, rural fire protection district or any other entity seeking to hold a special election for the purpose of filling a vacancy shall schedule a candidate filing period of three (3) days twenty (20) days following the date on a Monday not sooner than five (5) days from the date the resolution is filed with the secretary of the county election board but not later than the second Monday following the statutory deadline for filing the resolution calling the election is required to be filed with the secretary of the county election board.

The bill passed the Senate General Government Committee on Thursday with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 4 to 3. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Law Enforcement/Burglary: [SB 1735](#) by Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) and Rep. Terry O'Donnell (R-Catoosa) adds entering into a restricted area of a commercial building without authorization as a felony crime.

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

First Responders/Opioid Antagonists/Liability Protection: [SB 1740](#) by Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) and Rep. Jeff Boatman (R-Tulsa) defines "emergency opioid antagonist" means a drug including, but not limited to, naloxone that blocks the effects of opioids and that is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of an opioid overdose. Any first responder who administers or provides an emergency opioid antagonist in good faith and in a manner consistent with addressing opioid overdose shall not be liable for any civil damages as a result of any acts or omissions by such first responder except for committing gross negligence or willful wanton wrongs in administering or providing such emergency opioid antagonist.

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

Firearms/First Responders/Tribal Land: [SB 1779](#) by Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) and Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) authorizes the carry, possession, and use of a firearm by a first responder who possess a valid handgun license to carry a firearm in the course of their official duties. For a first responder to carry, possess, or use a firearm on federally recognized tribal land, a political subdivision may enter into intergovernmental cooperative agreements with a federally recognized tribe. Any intergovernmental cooperative agreement entered into between a political subdivision and a federally recognized tribe related to first responder services shall be agreed upon before a first responder carries, possesses, or uses a firearm on such tribal land. This does not include voluntary first responders. "First responder" means firefighter or licensed emergency medical personnel.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee as [amended](#) with the title stricken on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 2. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Law Enforcement/Mental Health Transport: [SB 1862](#) by Rep. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) transfers the responsibility of transporting an individual who self-presents at a facility or medical facility to the Department of Mental Health Substance Abuse Services or an entity contracted by the Department for alternative transportation.

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

Law Enforcement/Copper Theft: [SB 1908](#) by Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) and Rep. Eddy Dempsey (R-Valliant) makes it a crime for any person who shall enter upon any premises, easement, or right-of-way with intent to steal or remove without the consent of the owner, or with intent to aid or assist in stealing or removing, any copper wire, copper cable, or copper tubing from and off of any appurtenance on such premises, easement, or right-of-way resulting in damages to such appurtenance, premises, easement, or right-of-way of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) or more shall be guilty of a felony and upon conviction shall be punished by imprisonment in the custody of the DOC for not more than twenty-five (25) years, by a fine not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), or by both such imprisonment and fine.

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

Law Enforcement/SAFE Board: [SB 1933](#) by Sen. Kay Floyd (D-OKC) and Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) creates the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) Board within the Office of the Attorney General. The Board's duties include developing a comprehensive training plan for equipping and enhancing the work of law enforcement, prosecutors, victim advocates, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, and multidisciplinary Sexual assault Response Teams (SARTs) across all jurisdictions within this State; identify and pursue grants and other funding source to address untested

sexual assault forensic evidence kits; examine the process for gathering and analyzing sexual assault forensic evidence kits and work with members of the Legislature to draft proposed legislation to improve the response of medical and law enforcement systems to sexual assault; and other duties. The Board shall promulgate rules establishing criteria for the collection of sexual assault forensic evidence; establish and maintain statistical information; and other duties assigned by law.

Of the thirteen (13) member Board one member is a chief of a municipal police department selected from a list of three names submitted by the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police. The Board is authorized to hold executive sessions.

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

Firearms/Municipal Officials: [SB 1936](#) by Sen. Nathan Dahm (R-Broken Arrow) authorizes a municipal official, who possesses a valid handgun license issued pursuant to the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act, to carry a concealed handgun when acting in the performance of his or her duties in the municipality in which he or she was elected.

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

Law Enforcement/Eluding Police Officers: [SB 1970](#) by Sen. Adam Pugh (R-Edmond) any operator of a vehicle who willfully attempts in any other manner to elude a peace officer shall, upon conviction be guilty of a misdemeanor subject to no more than (1) year of imprisonment in a county jail or be a fine increased from One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) to not exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or both. A person who commits a second or subsequent violations shall be guilty of a felony with imprisonment in DOC for not more than two (2) years with a fine not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or both. Subsequent violations that result in great bodily injury shall be punished by imprisonment in DOC for not less than three (3)

years and a fine of not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00).

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 5 to 3. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

OK Local Development & Enterprise Zone Incentive Leverage Act/Reporting: [SB 2017](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) and Rep. Lonnie Sims (R-Jenks) requires an enterprise or entity receiving payments authorized pursuant to the provisions of Section 844 of this title shall annually report to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce the following: 1. All employment resulting from the project or facility location or expansion, including payroll amounts; 2. Capital investment amounts resulting from the project or facility location or expansion; and 3. Changes in the assessed value of property resulting from the project or facility location or expansion. The Department shall make available on the Department website the information reported pursuant to this subsection.

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

Sales Tax Exemption/Game Animals: [SB 2028](#) by Sen. Chris Kidd (R-Waurika) and Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) adds a new sales tax exemption game animals which means animals bred to be hunted for sport or food but does not include feral swine.

The bill passed the Senate Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate Finance Committee.

NEXT WEEK AT THE CAPITOL

Monday, February 19, 2024

House A&B Sub: Select Agencies
9:00 a.m., Room 4s5

Oklahoma Affordable Housing Commission: [HB 3956](#) by Rep. Melodye Blancett (D-Tulsa) creates the nineteen (19) member Oklahoma Affordable Housing Commission, one member shall be a representative from a non-urban municipality with a proven track record of addressing affordable housing issues and one shall be a representative

from an urban municipality with expertise or experience in finding creative and equitable solutions to the current affordable housing crisis. The Commission shall utilize resources available to it in order to address the needs of extremely low-income households, low-income households, middle income households, moderate income households, and very low-income households in order to promote a condition in which suitable housing is available to as many persons as possible.

Senate Tourism & Wildlife Committee
10:00 a.m., Room 230

Historical Society/OK Museum of Popular Culture: [SB 1517](#) by Sen. Roger Thompson (R-Okemah) creates the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture Revolving Fund to provide funding for repairs, planning, staging, refurbishing, and improvements for construction of the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture. On November 15, 2025, if no determination is made authorizing expenditures from this fund, all unencumbered funds shall be transferred to the General Revenue Fund.

House A&B Sub: Finance
10:30 a.m., Room 206

(Sand Springs Request - OML Support) Sales Tax Exemption/Municipal Trusts: [HB 2977](#) by Rep. Clay Staires (R-Skiatook) adds a sales tax exemption for a public trust in which a municipality is the beneficiary.

Sales Tax Exemption/OSU Medical Authority & Trust & OSU Veterinary Medicine Authority & Trust: [HB 3344](#) by Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) adds the Oklahoma State University Medical Authority and Trust and the Oklahoma Veterinary Medicine Authority and Trust to receive a sales tax exemption on the sale of tangible personal property or services.

Firearms/Income Tax Credit: [HB 3427](#) by Rep. Nick Archer (R-Elk City) creates an income tax credit beginning on or after January 1, 2025, in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for the cost that a taxpayer incurs in the purchase of one or more qualified expenses of One Thousand Dollars

(\$1,000.00) or more, and in the amount of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) for the cost that a taxpayer incurs in the purchase of one or more qualified expenses less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). "Qualified expense" means firearm safety devices.

Sales Tax Holiday/Firearms Ammunition: [HB 3429](#) by Rep. Nick Archer (R-Elk City) and Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) creates a sales tax holiday on the sales price of the article that is less than One Hundred Dollars and it begins at 12:01 am on the Friday before deer gun season, as determined by the Department of Wildlife Conservation, and ending at midnight on the following Sunday, covering a period of three (3) days. The sales tax exemption is imposed on the sales price of the article that is less than One Hundred Dollars.

Sales Tax Exemption/Disabled Veteran/Motor Vehicles: [HB 3463](#) by Rep. Anthony Moore (R-Clinton) adds a new sales tax exemption on the sales of new or used motor vehicles purchased by an individual who has been honorably discharged from active service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States or Oklahoma National Guard and who has been certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, its successor, or the Armed Forces of the United States to be a disabled veteran in receipt of compensation at the one-hundred-percent rate for a permanent disability sustained through military action or accident or resulting from disease contracted while in such active service and registered with the veterans registry created by the Oklahoma Department of Veteran Affairs.

Agriculture Sales Tax Exemption/Forestry: [HB 3738](#) by Rep. Eddy Dempsey (R-Valliant) amends the definition of "agricultural products" shall include horses and timber; and defines "farming" or "farm" shall include the production of timber, seedling production.

Sales Tax Exemption/Hearing Aids: [HB 3912](#) by Rep. Chad Caldwell (R-Enid) adds a sales tax exemption on the sales of hearing aid devices. "Hearing aid devices" mean an electronic device designed to amplify sound for individuals with hearing loss. It includes but is not limited to,

behind-the-ear, in-the-ear, and completely-in-the-canal options.

House A&B Sub: Natural Resources
10:30 a.m., Room 5s2

Sales Tax Exemption/Commercial Digital Asset Mining: [HB 4000](#) by Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) 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 defines "colocation facility", "commercial mining of digital assets", "digital assets" and "mine or "mining".

House A&B Sub: Education
10:30 a.m., Room 450

Law Enforcement/School Security: [HB 4016](#) by Rep. Mark McBride (R-Moore) and Sen. Brenda Stanley (R-MWC) adds a purpose for monies from the School Security Revolving Fund to be used for the implementation of a crisis management solution. This consists of a hard-wired notification system for identifying the location of a threat notifying staff, law enforcement, and first responders. The notification system shall also notify staff via text, email, and voice alert. The system must also address the time gap issue from the beginning of a violent event until law enforcement support can arrive and end the threat. The crisis management solution shall provide training and implementation of a variety of secured response options, including threshold protection, escape and evade options, and trauma first aid items.

Law Enforcement/School Resource Officers: [HB 4132](#) by Rep. Amanda Swope (D-Tulsa) requires school resource officers to successfully complete forty (40) hours of the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) Basic School Resource Officer Course training and an additional twelve (12) hours of Adolescent Mental Health Training offered by NASRO. Training shall include behavioral threat assessment and management and law enforcement active shooter emergency response training.

Community Quality of Life Enhancement Act: [HB 3424](#) by Rep. Nick Archer (R-Elk City) creates the Community Quality of Life Enhancement Act to provide additional funding sources to promote a high quality of life. Such funding should be utilized by the communities based on an allocation system using a per capita method. Local communities are required to establish a board in order to make applications to the Department of Commerce. The monies in the Community Quality of Life Enhancement Revolving Funds may be utilized by eligible communities for: infrastructure that impacts quality of life; parks and recreational facilities; public transportation enhancements; cultural and community centers; public art beautification; and environmental conservation projects. The Community Quality of Life Revolving Fund will be appropriated Sixty-Million Dollars each fiscal year.

Senate Business & Commerce Committee
2:00 p.m., Room 4S9

(OML Priority) Marijuana/Certificate of Compliance: [SB 1635](#) by Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) allows a licensee who has submitted to OMMA showing full compliance as outlined by law, to only need to submit an affidavit for license renewal stating the premises continues to comply with zoning classifications, applicable municipal ordinances, and all applicable safety, electrical, fire, plumbing, waste, construction and building specification codes. An additional certificate of compliance (COC) along with an affidavit shall be submitted if a change of use or occupancy occurs. Municipalities may implement an inspection program to verify compliance with this subsection. OMMA shall promulgate rules necessary for the affidavit. If an application for renewal is submitted in violation or information provided on the affidavit is inaccurate or untrue, OMMA shall suspend operations of the licensee's premises until compliance is reestablished.

Sewage Disposal System Installers/DEQ: [SB 1759](#) by Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) modifies the specified amount needed for required certification to install individual sewage disposal system from

ten (10) to one (1) individual sewage disposal systems per calendar year.

**House County & Municipal Government
Committee**

3:00 p.m. Room 4s5

County Assessors/Municipal Building Permits: [HB 3941](#) by Rep. Melissa Provenzano (D-Tulsa) requires cities and towns to transmit a copy of any building permit issued within its boundaries to the county assessor no later than thirty (30) days after the date of issuance. Cities and towns are required to provide the county assessor with electronic copies of building permits, where available and feasible.

**House Banking & Financial Svcs. & Pension
Committee**

3:00 p.m., Room 450

Oklahoma Public Finance Protection Act/Pensions: [HB 1617](#) by Rep. Mark Lepak (R-Claremore) creates the Oklahoma Public Finance Protection Act. The bill requires a fiduciary to discharge his duties with respect to a plan solely in the pecuniary interest of the participants and beneficiaries. A fiduciary's evaluation of an investment, or evaluation for exercise of any right appurtenant to an investment, must consider only pecuniary factors. Plan fiduciaries are not permitted to promote non-pecuniary benefits or any other non-pecuniary goals. Environmental, social, corporate governance, or other similarly oriented considerations are pecuniary only if they present economic risks. All shares held directly or indirectly by or on behalf of a pension benefit plan or the beneficiaries thereof shall be voted solely in the pecuniary interest of the plan participants. Voting to further non-pecuniary, environmental, social, political, ideological, or other benefits or goals is prohibited. The Attorney General has the power to enforce this Act.

Credit Card Service Fees: [HB 3507](#) by Rep. Chris Sneed (R-Fort Gibson) authorizes a seller in any sales transaction to pass on the processing fee on a cardholder who elects to use a credit or debit card.

House A&B Sub: General Government

4:40 p.m., Room 4s5

Parks/Playground Equipment: [HB 3935](#) by Rep. Melissa Provenzano (D-Tulsa) requires every city, town, municipality, and public school district that plans to: 1) install new playground equipment and travel surfaces; and 2) update existing playground equipment and travel surfaces, to ensure that all material and equipment are fully inclusive and accessible for adults and children of all ages.

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

House General Government Committee

10:30 a.m., Room 5s2

Open Records/Discovery Process: [HB 3779](#) by Rep. Collin Duel (R-Guthrie) modifies definitions and adds language relating to the Oklahoma Open Records Act. The bill reduces the list of things identified as "non-records" that are not subject to confidentiality. The bill also allows a person who requests and is denied access to records of a public body or public official to bring a civil suit under Subsection B, any person seeking declaratory or injunctive relief, or both. The person must notify the public body or public official of his or her intent to bring a civil suit to obtain relief in writing ten (10) business days prior to filing for such relief.

Senate Retirement & Insurance Committee

2:00 p.m., Room 230

Police Pension & Retirement System: [SB 102](#) by Sen. Jessica Garvin (R-Duncan) increases the per year benefit multiplier from two percent (2.5%) to three percent (3.0%) for members of the Police Pension and Retirement System who retire or become disabled one (1) year after the effective date of this bill provided they have at least twenty-five (25) years of service: retire after two (2) years from the effective date provided they have at least twenty (20) Years of service; retire after five (5) years from the effective date. The employee participant contribution rate is increased from eight percent (8%) to nine percent (9%) of compensation after the effective date of this act. The employer (municipality's) contribution rate has increased

from thirteen percent (13%) to fourteen percent (14%).

Volunteer Firefighter Retirement: [SB 453](#) by Sen. Jessica Garvin (R-Duncan) sets the maximum amount of compensation a volunteer firefighter may earn to Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty-nine Dollars and sixty-nine cents (\$9,939.69) per year and still be considered a volunteer firefighter. Volunteer firefighters who retire on and after the effective date of this act shall receive a monthly pension in the amount of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) for each year of credited service not to exceed thirty (30) years.

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

House Business & Commerce Committee
9:00 a.m., Room 206

Tattoo and Body Piercing Businesses: [HB 3428](#) by Rep. Nick Archer (R-Elk City) and Sen. Julia Kirt (D-OKC) removes the licensing requirements for a body piercing or tattoo operator. It gives the Dept. of Health authority to enforce the regulation by notifying the district attorney of any relevant county, the Department may impose an administrative fine not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00). Whenever it appears that any person is engaged or about to engage in any acts or practices that constitute a violation, the Department, the AG or the district attorney may bring an action in the relevant district court or in Oklahoma County.

OUBCC: [HB 3819](#) by Rep. Lonnie Sims (R-Jenks) creates the definition of "payback period" when used in this act, shall mean the amount of time a system, design, or project takes to generate the amount of energy used to produce the said system, design, or project. OUBCC shall have the power and duty to establish a continuing education training for all residential and commercial industry personnel affected by the codes adopted by the Commission. A fee, limited to any cost directly associated with the class, may be assessed to all participants other than state licensed code officials. OUBCC shall establish a workforce development process with the purpose of increasing the number of available code officials in Oklahoma. Individuals may complete regional training and be issued a certification for inspections. OUBCC shall promulgate rules requiring all

proposed energy building codes or amendments to include a) a payback period analysis; or b) a statement explaining why a payback period is not applicable to the proposed energy code or amendment. OUBCC shall not adopt any proposed energy code or amendment that does not have a payback period of seven (7) years or less unless a payback period does not apply to the proposed code or amendment.

House Judiciary - Criminal Committee
10:30 a.m., Room 206

(OCEA Request - OML Support) Law Enforcement/Assault & Battery/Code Enforcement Officers: [HB 2966](#) by Rep. Ken Luttrell (R-Ponca City) makes it a crime to assault a building inspector or municipal code enforcement officer while such building inspector or code enforcement officer is in the performance of his or her duties. Upon conviction, an individual will be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one (1) year, by a fine of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment. Upon a second or subsequent conviction, the person shall be guilty of a felony punishable of imprisonment in the custody of DOC for not more than two (2) years, by a fine of not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) or both. Any person who commits an aggravated assault and battery, upon conviction, shall be guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment in the custody of not less than two (2) years nor more than five (5) years, by a fine of not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or both.

House Alcohol, Tobacco & Substance Abuse Services Committee
10:30 a.m., Room 5s2

(OML Priority) Medical Marijuana/Certificate of Compliance: [HB 3355](#) by Rep. T.J. Marti (R-Broken Arrow) provides an exception to certificate of compliance if the application for renewal is submitted with an affidavit stating the premises still comply with zoning classifications, applicable municipal ordinances, and all applicable safety, electrical, fire, plumbing, waste, construction and building specification codes. A certificate of

compliance shall be submitted if a change of use or occupancy occurs. Municipalities are authorized to implement an inspection program to verify compliance. OMMA shall create a standard affidavit form. If an application for renewal is submitted in violation of this subsection or information provided on the affidavit is inaccurate or untrue, OMMA shall suspend operations of the licensee until compliance is reestablished.