

05-24

March 8, 2024

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House and Senate Begin Floor Work

After last week's committee deadline, the House and Senate spent their time hearing bills in their respective chambers this week.

The House passed 172 bills and the Senate passed 104 bills this week before the Third Reading and Final Passage Deadline next Thursday, March 14th. Senate Majority Floor Leader Greg McCortney (R-Ada) told the Senate before they adjourned for the week to plan to stay until 5:00 p.m. every day through Thursday with the chance of being there later on Thursday.

Senate Appropriations Process

The Senate met Wednesday in an all-day appropriation meeting to approve the beginning estimates for their FY 2025 budget.

The Board of Equalization certified lawmakers will have nearly \$14 billion dollars to appropriate for the fiscal year that begins July 1. About \$11.6 billion of that is recurring revenue, according to Senate estimates. Eliminating the state portion of the grocery tax will cost an estimated \$312 million in the upcoming fiscal year, which will leave only about \$132 million in recurring revenue remains above base level state agency expenses, according to Senate estimates.

Senate Appropriations Chairman Senator Roger Thompson (R-Okemah) stressed that the budget figures are subject to change.

"We are still at the beginning of the process so these numbers will not be our final numbers," Thompson said. "This is a dynamic process. It is a fluid process, and it is a work in progress."

The Committee will finalize a proposed state budget for the upcoming fiscal year in March which will then go before the full Senate.

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

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BILLS ON THE MOVE:

Tuition/Children of Peace Officers, Firefighters & EMTs who Died in the Line of Duty: [HB 1795](#) by Rep. Mike Osburn (R-Edmond) and Sen. Kristen Thompson (R-Edmond) prohibits the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education from charging fees, room and board to children of Oklahoma peace officers, firefighters, commissioned members of OLEERS, and emergency medical technicians who have given their lives in the line of duty.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 92 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

Water and Water Rights/Water Usage: [HB 2197](#) by Rep. Dick Lowe (R-Amber) and Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) 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 on Monday by a [vote](#) of 78 to 14. The bill moves to the Senate.

Ambulances/Out-of-Network Ambulance Provider Act: [HB 2872](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) establishes the minimum allowable reimbursement rate under any health care benefit plan issued by a healthcare insurer to an out-of-network ambulance service provider for providing emergency services shall be one of the following items: 1. At the rates set or

approved, whether in contract or by ordinance, by a local governmental entity in the jurisdiction in which the covered health care services originates; 2. Shall be three hundred twenty-five percent (325%) of the current published rate for ambulance services as established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act for the same services provided in the same geographic area; or 3. The ambulance service provider's billed charges, whichever is less. Payment in compliance with this section shall be considered payment in full. An ambulance service provider is prohibited from billing the enrollee for any additional amounts for the paid covered services in excess of what the healthcare insurer pays. A healthcare insurer shall, within thirty (30) days after receipt of a clean claim for covered services, promptly remit payment for ambulance service directly to the ambulance service provider. The bill modifies the definition of health care benefit plans to include government sponsored self-insured plans.

The bill passed the House on Monday by a [vote](#) of 84 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate.

Terry Peach Water Restoration Act: [HB 3106](#) by Rep. Mike Dobrinski (R-Okeene) creates a statewide pilot program for managing and eradicating invasive woody species in watersheds throughout the state.

The bill with the title stricken passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 93 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

Eminent Domain/Right of First Refusal: [HB 3159](#) by Rep. Eric Roberts (R-OKC) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) provides for the first refusal or right of first refusal offer if the acquired land is ever sold by the state or any state agency thereof or any person who acquired the land through the use of eminent domain authority. If the landowner chooses to exercise this right, the price would be the lower of either the current market value or the price received by the landowner under the eminent domain sale. This right shall be available to the landowner in the original eminent domain sale and to the first generation of heirs. However, acquired land may be transferred to another state agency

without prompting the first refusal or right of first refusal.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 91 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate.

Law Enforcement/DUI: [HB 3220](#) by Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) prohibits a police officer or sheriff from releasing a person arrested for a second or subsequent DUI without the violator granting of bail by a magistrate, court, judge, or on-call judge, whether by telephone or in person. In determining bond and other conditions of release, the magistrate, judge, on-call judge, or court shall consider any evidence that the person is in any manner dependent upon alcohol or a controlled dangerous substance or has a pattern of regular abuse of alcohol or the illegal use of any controlled dangerous substance. If the person was arrested for any crime provided for in Section 11-902 of Title 47, the court shall consider the threat the person poses to the public safety and shall present written findings on the bail amount. The bill removes the drug and alcohol testing requirements. It also modifies the list of written statements authorizing the certain withdrawal of blood.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 78 to 16. The bill moves to the Senate.

Arkansas River Levee Projects Revolving Fund: [HB 3288](#) by Rep. Kyle Hilbert (R-Bristow) and Sen. Cody Rogers (R-Tulsa) creates the Arkansas River Levee Projects Revolving Fund in the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. The fund may be budgeted and expended by the Conservation Commission for the purpose of constructing or repairing levees in proximity to the Arkansas River, subject to the federal matching funds requirement.

The bill passed the House on Monday by a [vote](#) of 95 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate.

OTC/Sales Tax Permits: [HB 3346](#) by Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) and Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) allows monies in the OTC and OMES Joint Computer Enhancement Fund to make payments for Information Technology acquisitions to support the responsibilities of OTC. Whenever the sales tax reports required to be filed by Section 1365 of this title indicate there is no business activity at a place

of business for a period of twelve (12 months, OTC, after giving twenty (20) days' notice to the permit holder in writing of the time and place of hearing to show cause why the sales tax permit for that place of business should not be revoked, may revoke or suspend the permit pursuant to an order of OTC after failure to show cause or failure to appear by the permit holder.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 88 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

Community Quality of Life Enhancement Act: [HB 3424](#) by Rep. Nick Archer (R-Elk City) and Sen. Jessica Garvin (R-Duncan) 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 (\$60,000,000.00) each fiscal year.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 74 to 21. The bill moves to the Senate.

Firearms/Income Tax Credit: [HB 3427](#) by Rep. Nick Archer (R-Elk City) and Sen. Jo Anna Dossett (D-Tulsa) 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.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 85 to 10. The bill moves to the Senate.

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.

The bill passed the House on Monday by a [vote](#) of 87 to 7. The bill moves to the Senate.

Court Financial Obligations: [HB 3546](#) by Rep. Danny Sterling (R-Tecumseh) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) provides that at the hearing following the arrest on the cost arrest warrant, the court shall conduct a cost hearing or willfulness hearing, as the court deems appropriate, within seventy-two (72) hours of the arrest unless: the custodian is presented with proof of payment in the amount of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) to each jurisdiction where the financial obligations are owed and the new cost hearing date is provided; the court releases the defendant released from custody and the new cost hearing date is provided, or the court conducts a cost or willfulness hearing as appropriate and determines the defendant should be released. The district court or municipal court within one hundred twenty (120) days from the date upon which the person fails to comply with the financial obligation as ordered by the court or fails to appear for the offered cost or willfulness hearing, may, if the defendant has previously been notified of the possibility of a suspension, send notice of nonpayment of any court-ordered financial obligation for a moving traffic violation to Service Oklahoma with recommendation of suspension of driving privileges of the defendant until the total amount is paid or waived by the court. Every county and district court shall fully utilize and participate in the court cost compliance program.

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

Law Enforcement/Dual Office Holdings: [HB 3557](#) by Rep. Gerrid Kendrix (R-Altus) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) 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 on Monday by a [vote](#) of 90 to 5. The bill moves to the Senate.

Municipal Airports Act/Vertiports & Air Navigation Properties: [HB 3672](#) by Rep. Nicole Miller (R-Edmond) and Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) defines "vertiport" to mean an area of land, water, or structure used or intended to be used for the landing and takeoff of VTOL aircraft. "VTOL aircraft" means an aircraft which has vertical takeoff and landing capability. The Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics clearinghouse adds that the Department will investigate the development of and, if necessary, create a statewide system plan that will provide the framework for the construction, development, siting, and potential partnerships required for vertiports, and other infrastructure

needed to integrate AAM and UAS into the existing air transportation system of the state. The Department is authorized to enter into partnerships with any city or town of this state and any county or political subdivision or district of this state, or any public trust thereof, for the purpose of investing in and operating infrastructure and any other items necessary to integrate AAM safely and effectively and UAS into the existing air transportation system of the state as well as the testing and development of these new aeronautical technologies.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 90 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

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

The bill passed the House on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 86 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate.

Open Records/Discovery Process: [HB 3779](#) by Rep. Collin Duel (R-Guthrie) and Sen. Rob Standridge (R-Norman) 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. Such notice must also be provided to the AG.

The bill was [amended](#) and passed the House on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 84 to 2. The bill moves to the Senate.

Open Meeting Act/Video Conferencing and Teleconferencing: [HB 3780](#) by Rep. Collin Duel (R-Guthrie) and Sen. Jessica Garvin (R-Duncan) 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 on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 94 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate.

Disaster Relief/Stormwater Management Predictive Analytic Solution: [HB 3821](#) by Rep. Lonnie Sims (R-Jenks) and Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) requires the Oklahoma Office of Emergency Management to contract with a vendor to design and develop a statewide Stormwater Management Predictive Analytic Solution (SMPAS) to include an early warning detection system and advanced flood monitoring solution. The SMPAS shall access and visualize all relevant data; forecast future conditions; improve forecasting models; provide real-time tracking and alerts and improve situational awareness, flood resiliency and stormwater management systems. SMPAS shall be operational no later than February 28, 2025. By March 31, 2025, and annually thereafter, Emergency Management shall submit a report to the Governor, Pro Tempore and Speaker summarizing the information and analyzing trends.

The bill passed the House on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 87 to 2. The bill moves to the Senate.

Municipal Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Investments: [HB 3854](#) by Rep. Rusty Cornwell (R-Vinita) and Sen. Micheal Bergstrom (R-Adair) creates an investment rebate program through July 1, 2029. for the cost of water and wastewater infrastructure investments by municipalities with a population between five thousand (5,000) and seven thousand (7,000). The bill lays out the provisions by which a municipality may be eligible for consideration for an investment rebate payment. Commerce shall approve or disapprove claims for rebates and shall issue payment for all approved claims from funds held in the Water Infrastructure for Economic Development Fund.

The bill passed the House with the title stricken on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 69 to 17. The bill moves to the Senate.

Utility Bills/Domestic Violence Victims: [HB 3863](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Kristen Thompson (R-Edmond) adds another factor

for individuals who have been victims of domestic violence or stalking to be exempt from the public utility's initial credit and deposit requirements for individuals who are a designated representative of a domestic violence shelter or domestic violence program operated by a federally recognized Indian tribe.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 92 to 0. The bill moves to the House.

Law Enforcement/School Mapping Data: [HB 3884](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) defines "school mapping data" to mean information provided in an electronic or digital format to assist first responders in responding to emergencies in schools. The school mapping data must be compatible with software used by local, county, state and federal public safety agencies that provide emergency services to the specific school without requiring agencies to purchase additional software or requiring a fee to view or access the data. Data must be printable and digital and verified by the entity producing the data for accuracy by a walk-through of school buildings and grounds. It should align with true north and overlay aerial imagery. Data shall not be modified or updated independently without corresponding updates to public safety agencies software. The bill establishes the School District Mapping Data Grant Program within the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety. The department may seek funds to provide mapping data for all public and private schools.

The bill passed the House on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 88 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

Competitive Bidding: [HB 3930](#) by Rep. Jared Deck (D-Norman) and Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) increases the threshold for certain construction contracts to be negotiated with a qualified contractor from less than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to less than Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00).

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 96 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

Open Meeting Act/Public Notice: [HB 3937](#) by Rep. Melissa Provenzano (D-Tulsa) and Sen. George Burns (R-Pollard) 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 on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 86 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

Law Enforcement/DUI: [HB 3960](#) by Rep. Jon Echols (R-OKC) and Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) removes the ability of the court to suspend the sentence or give probation to a third or subsequent DUI offender.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 91 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

Law Enforcement/School Security: [HB 4016](#) by Rep. Mark McBride (R-Moore) and Sen. Brenda Stanley (R-MWC) creates the Oklahoma School Safety Training Program Revolving Fund. Monies received by the State Department of Education shall provide for: reimbursements, grants and other monies received from other state agencies and entities for school security; reimbursements, grants or other monies received from the US government obligated to school safety training projects; gifts, donations, and bequests; and monies appropriated by the Legislature. Monies from the School Security Revolving Fund shall be used for the implementation of crisis management solutions which consists of a hard-wired notification system for identifying the location of a threat notifying staff, law enforcement, and first responders. The system must address the time gap issue from the beginning of a violent event until law enforcement support can arrive and end the threat.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 96 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

Economic Development/Investment Rebate

Program: [HB 4019](#) by Rep. Mark McBride (R-Moore) and Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Wilson) creates until July 1, 2030, an investment rebate program for the cost of qualified capital expenditures that: are defined or classified in the NAICS Manual under Industry Group No. 325120 and have acquired real property located within the boundaries of a municipality with a population of twenty thousand (20,000) and thirty thousand (30,000) where the qualified capital will be located. The bill spells out the criteria for qualifying for the program. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce shall approve or disapprove claims for rebates for disbursement from the newly created Commerce Manufacturing Activity Development Fund.

The bill with the title stricken passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 62 to 25. The bill moves to the Senate.

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 on Monday by a [vote](#) of 86 to 6. The bill moves to the Senate.

Law Enforcement/Larceny of Gift Cards: [HB 4069](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) adds gift cards to larceny of merchandise. The bill modifies the crime of falsely manufacturing of credit and debit cards to include the cloning or altering any credit, debit or similar card containing a magnetic strip capable of storing data. The bill provides that the possession of three (3) or more cards containing cloned or altered data is a rebuttable presumption that the person possesses the cards with the intent to defraud. The bill modifies the penalties for possession of cloned or altered cards by providing that the possession of five or fewer cards is a felony punishable by a term of imprisonment of not less than two (2) years nor more than five years and a fine of up to Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00). Possession of six (6) to twenty (20) cards is a felony punishable by imprisonment of not less than five years and not more than ten years and a fine of not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00). Possession of twenty (20) or more falsely made cards is a felony punishable by a term of imprisonment of not less than ten (10) years and not more than twenty (20) years and a fine of up to One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00).

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

Law Enforcement/Alyssa's Law: [HB 4073](#) by Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) creates "Alyssa's Law". Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, each school district in the state shall implement a mobile panic alert system. The system shall: 1) connect emergency service technologies to ensure real-time

coordination among multiple first responder agencies; and 2) integrate with public safety answering point infrastructure to transmit 9-1-1 calls and mobile activation. The bill requires the Board of Education to adopt a list of approved mobile panic alert systems and sets up the minimum requirements for those systems.

The bill passed the House on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 89 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

Law Enforcement/Firearm ID Cards: [HB 4120](#) by Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) modifies procedures for renewing identification cards issued by CLEET to eligible retired peace officers is to remain valid if no preclusion is found. Any firearms permit issued to a retired peace officer in accordance with the provisions of this section that previously expired and a preclusion has not been discovered by CLEET, shall remain valid and the expiration date on the original firearms permit shall be deemed irrelevant.

The bill passed the House on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 87 to 2. The bill moves to the Senate.

Preemption/Firearms/Constitutional Amendment: [HJR 1034](#) by Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) refers to the vote of the people a constitutional amendment expanding the rights of citizens to keep and bear arms. It is the fundamental right of each individual to keep and to bear arms. This section does not prevent the Legislature from enforcing or adopting narrowly tailored time, place, and manner regulations, or authorizing political subdivisions to adopt and enforce such regulations, to serve a compelling state interest. No law shall impose registration or special taxation upon the keeping of arms including the acquisition, ownership, possession, or transfer of arms, ammunition, or the components of arms or ammunition.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 81 to 19. The bill moves to the Senate.

Sales Tax Rebate/Qualifying Broadband Equipment: [SB 1259](#) by Sen. Roger Thompson (R-Okemah) and Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-Wellston) modifies the deadline for filing rebate claims on equipment used for broadband services. The report shall be filed no later than April 1, 2025, with respect

to rebates paid for equipment purchases made during calendar years 2022 and 2023 and April 1 of the second succeeding year for equipment purchases made in subsequent calendar years.

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 40 to 5. The bill moves to the House.

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 2 FTE's 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 on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 42 to 0. The bill moves to the House.

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 on Monday by a [vote](#) of 39 to 7. The bill moves to the House.

Attorney General Duties: [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 on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 43 to 0. The bill moves to the House.

GTCA/Emergency Medical Services District: [SB 1653](#) by Sen. Ally Seifried (R-Claremore) and Rep. Chris Sneed (R-Fort Gibson) amends Section 152 of Title 51 regarding the Governmental Tort Claims Act by adding "emergency medical services districts" to the definition of "political subdivision".

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 45 to 1. The bill moves to the House.

Advancement of Wellness Advisory Council: [SB 1708](#) by Sen. Ally Seifried (R-Claremore) and Rep. Cynthia Roe (R-Lindsay) outlines the appointment of the ten (10)-member Advancement of Wellness Advisory Council. Three (3) members appointed by the Governor, three (3) members appointed by the Pro Tempore of the Senate, three (3) members appointed by the Speaker of the House, and one appointed by the Commissioner of Health. Six (6)

members will constitute a quorum. The bill also adds one member who is knowledgeable about cardiometabolic disease including obesity, dyslipidemia, hypertension, and diabetes; one member who represents an Urban Indian Health Center in this state or a nonprofit organization with a major focus on improving public health for citizens of federally recognized tribes in this state, and one member who represents a federally recognized tribe based in this state which maintains a tribally operated health system.

The bill passed the Senate on Monday by a [vote](#) of 39 to 6. The bill moves to the House.

Open Meetings/Executive Sessions: [SB 1716](#) by Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) and Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) allows licensing bodies to enter executive session in reviewing and discussing mental health documents related to a licensee under investigation or review by a professional licensing board if: a. the executive session is held only to review or discuss mental health documents directly related to the licensee or to receive testimony from relevant witnesses as necessary for the board to make a determination in the matter, b. the documents reviewed or discussed are kept confidential, privileged and not discoverable in civil actions, and not made available to the public, and c. the licensee is given the opportunity to be present during any witness testimony or discussion of the mental health documents.

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 42 to 3. The bill moves to the House.

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 on Monday by a [vote](#) of 39 to 6. The bill moves to the House.

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 on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 43 to 0. The bill moves to the House.

Sewage Disposal System Installers/DEQ: [SB 1759](#) by Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) and Rep. Ty Burns (R-Pawnee) 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.

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 36 to 8. The bill moves to the House.

Open Records Act/NIL Contracts: [SB 1787](#) by Sen. Kristen Thompson (R-Edmond) and Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) makes any contract for use of a student athletes name, image, or likeness disclosed to a postsecondary institution pursuant to the Student Athlete Name, Image and Likeness Rights Act to be kept confidential.

The bill passed the Senate on Monday by a [vote](#) of 35 to 10. The bill moves to the House.

Law Enforcement/Mental Health Transport: [SB 1862](#) by Rep. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Marcus McEntire (R-Duncan) 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 on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 42 to 0. The bill moves to the House.

Law Enforcement/Larceny: [SB 1877](#) by Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) and Rep. Terry O'Donnell (R-Catoosa) expands the time period to be

considered for aggregate crimes of larceny from ninety (90) days to one hundred eighty (180) days.

The bill passed the Senate on Monday by a [vote](#) of 40 to 6. The bill moves to the House.

Law Enforcement/Vehicle Registration Information: [SB 1907](#) by Sen. Darcy Jech (R-Kingfisher) and Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) authorizes DPS to provide the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority access to vehicle registration information online within this state that is available through the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Telecommunication Systems network for purposes of toll transportation facilities.

The bill passed the Senate on Monday by a [vote](#) of 32 to 13. The bill moves to the House.

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 on Monday by a [vote](#) of 45 to 0. The bill moves to the House.