

06-24

March 15, 2024

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Deadline Dynamics

The House and Senate moved up the Third Reading and Final Passage deadline by one week. The House finished yesterday by 1:30 p.m. while the Senate had to deal with some dynamics to get through their lengthy agenda and did not adjourn until after 10:00 p.m. After the deadline, there are now 1,331 live bills and joint resolutions to work with before the next deadline of April 11th to hear bills in the Opposite Chamber.

The long day in the Senate was due to Senators who were unhappy with their bills not being heard, so they chose to filibuster and read the entire text of the bills out loud. The Senate removed some of the bills from their original 75 bill agenda due to time. One of those bills was [SB 1650](#) by Rep. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) and Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow). This bill would have directed the governing body of a public utility to adopt a plan that provided for the mapping and storage records of relating to the sanitary sewer system, the inspection and cleaning of certain components of the system, the prohibition of fat and grease from entering the system from nonresidential entities, the adoption of a funding model, and the adoption of a 5-year capital improvement plan.

OML was successful in getting [SB 1635](#) by Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) and Rep. T.J. Marti (R-Broken Arrow) passed by a [vote](#) of 35 to 9 with the title stricken. SB 1635 requires annual certificate of compliance from municipalities to OMMA for any renewal of a marijuana dispensary, grower, or processor license. The bill was [amended](#) on the Floor to state if the political subdivision does not have an authority having jurisdiction agreement on file with the State Fire Marshal's office, the State Fire Marshal shall certify compliance with all applicable codes. Any marijuana licensed premises, medical marijuana business, any other premises where medical marijuana or its byproducts are licensed to be cultivated, grown, processed, stored, or manufactured that have been issued a certificate of compliance by any political subdivision prior to the effective date of this act shall not be denied licensure or registration by a state agency for failing to provide a certificate of occupancy issued by either the State Fire Marshal or a political division who has authority having jurisdiction on file with the State Fire Marshal until after July 1, 2026.

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

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BILLS ON THE MOVE:

Military Installation & Critical Infrastructure Act of 2024: [HB 1265](#) by Speaker Charles McCall (R-Atoka) and Sen. Pro Tempore Greg Treat (R-OKC) creates the Military Installation and Critical Infrastructure Act of 2024. The bill prohibits a foreign principal from a foreign adversary country from directly or indirectly owning, having an interest greater than twenty-five percent (25%) in, or acquiring land in this state. The bill allows for whistleblower referrals and entitles the whistleblower to be entitled to a reward equal to thirty percent (30%) of the proceeds of the land sale that results from violations, after payments to lienholders. The Office of the AG must establish a process by which local officials, states officials, or other persons may submit information or concerns to the Office regarding non-notified transactions in Oklahoma.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 79 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate.

Pensions/COLA Increase: [HB 1277](#) by Speaker Charles McCall (R-Atoka) provides a two percent (2%) cost of living adjustment (COLA) to retirees of the state's public pension systems, including police and firefighters. The COLA will take effect July 1, 2023, and will be given to those that have retired at least 1 year as of July 1, 2023.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 81 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

Oklahoma Public Finance Protection Act/Pensions: [HB 1617](#) by Rep. Mark Lepak (R-Claremore) and Sen. Shane Jett (R-Shawnee) requires fiduciaries to act solely in the pecuniary interest of the plan participants and beneficiaries. Plan fiduciaries are not permitted to promote non-pecuniary factors. Environmental, social, corporate governance, or other similarly oriented considerations are pecuniary only if they present economic risks. The bill establishes reporting requirement for proxy voting, which must be reported and tabulated annually and posted on a public website. Additionally, the bill authorizes the Attorney General to enforce the act and provides civil immunity to all officers, board members and employees of any state pension plan for any act or

omission related to the act. The bill provides civil immunity to all officers, board members and employees of any state pension plan for any act or omission related to the act.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 73 to 17. The bill moves to the Senate.

OPERS/Emergency Medical Personnel: [HB 1805](#) by Rep. Neil Hays (R-Checotah) designates licensed emergency medical personnel hired on or after November 1, 2023, as hazardous duty members of the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). Qualifying emergency medical personnel includes emergency medical responders, technicians and paramedics working for a participating OPERS employer. Hazardous duty members of OPERS receive increased retirement and pension benefits compared to non-hazardous duty employees and are subject the following contribution and benefit structure: the employee contribution rate is eight percent (8%) and the employer contribution rate is sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%); members are eligible to receive full, unreduced retirement benefits after twenty (20) years of service; and benefits are calculated using a two and one-half percent (2.5%) per year multiplier for the first twenty (20) years of service and two percent (2%) per year multiplier for service in excess of twenty (20) years. Compensation does not include payment for overtime, compensation, or reimbursement for traveling, moving expenses, or any compensation in excess of the maximum compensation level.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 93 to 2. The bill moves to the Senate.

Firefighter & Police Pension System/Death Benefit Increases: [HB 1824](#) by Rep. Stan May (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Blake Stephens (R-Tahlequah) increases the death benefit for members of the Police and Firefighter Pension & Retirement Systems from Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00).

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 94 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

Environment/PFAS Act: [HB 2305](#) by Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) and Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) authorizes DEQ to promulgate rules and regulations related to the receipt, storage, treatment, and disposal of PFAS waste in this state. A person shall apply for the activity to DEQ and receive the authorization prior to any activity regarding PFAS waste. The bill provides a list of protected passive receivers of PFAS waste that provide essential services to not be held liable to the State of Oklahoma, or any political subdivision, for costs arising from a release to the environment of a PFAS substance. The list includes a public water system; a publicly or privately owned or operated treatment works, or the owner of a site where biosolids generated from a treatment works or a permitted municipal wastewater lagoon; a municipality to which a permit is issued for stormwater discharge; a political subdivision acting as wholesale water agency; a contractor performing the management or disposal activities; an entity with a fire suppression system installed in accordance with federal, state and local fire codes; airports; and an owner or operator of a solid waste management facility.

The bill with the title stricken passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 93 to 2. The bill moves to the Senate.

OLERS: [HB 2687](#) by Rep. John George (R-Newalla) and Sen. Dewayne Pemberton (R-Muskogee) authorizes members of OPERS who are active commissioned or CLEET certified agents of the AG and Oklahoma Military Department on June 30, 2024, may make an irrevocable written election to participate in OLERS.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 87 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

(OML Support) Law Enforcement/Assault & Battery/Code Enforcement Officers: [HB 2966](#) by Rep. Ken Luttrell (R-Ponca City) and Sen. Bill Coleman (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.

The bill passed the House on Monday by a [vote](#) of 88 to 4. The bill moves to the Senate.

Law Enforcement/OLERS/IRS Compliance: [HB 2996](#) by Rep. Mark Lepak (R-Claremore) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) adds members to OLERS who are CLEET certified police officers employed by OU and OSU and lake patrolman or dispatchers of GRDA who participate in this System. This bill also aligns the System with current IRS standards.

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

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

Law Enforcement/Firefighters/License Plates: [HB 3032](#) by Rep. Cody Maynard (R-Durant) requires Service Oklahoma to design appropriate official license plates for vehicles of Oklahoma fire departments, law enforcement agencies, ambulance services, and emergency management agencies. Each license plate is distinctly designed. The license plates shall be available to all state, county, city, and town entities currently recognized by Service Oklahoma to receive government license plates. There shall be an initial fee of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) to purchase the transferable license plates. The fee shall be deposited in accordance with Service Oklahoma rules. License plates currently on

these vehicles do not need to be replaced until a new vehicle is purchased. All new license plates shall be permanent transferable license plates.

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

Firearms/Felony Expungements: [HB 3037](#) by Rep. Preston Stinson (R-Edmond) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) authorizes any person who has had a felony conviction expunged and has not been convicted of any other felony offense which has not been pardoned or expunged, to have restored the right to possess any firearm or other weapon prohibited by subsection A of Section 1283 of Title 21, the right to apply for and carry a handgun, concealed or unconcealed, pursuant to the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act or as otherwise permitted by law, and have the right to perform the duties of a peace officer or gunsmith, and for purposes of performing firearm repairs.

The bill with the title stricken passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 91 to 2. The bill moves to the Senate.

Emergency Rules/OK Emergency Management Act of 2003 or Catastrophic Health Emergency Powers Act: [HB 3059](#) by Rep. Jay Steagall (R-Yukon) and Sen. Jack Stewart (R-Yukon) provides if an emergency declaration has been made pursuant to the Oklahoma Emergency Management Act of 2003, or the Catastrophic Health Emergency Powers Act the rule may be promulgated during the declared emergency period. If the Governor determines the agency filed, the rule during a declared emergency period and has established the rule necessary it shall remain in force and full effect until September 14 following such session or until the declared emergency period has terminated whichever is earlier.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 92 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate.

Emergency Proclamations: [HB 3061](#) by Rep. Jay Steagall (R-Yukon) and Sen. Jack Stewart (R-Yukon) provides that if the Governor issues a proclamation after an emergency or disaster, it will terminate automatically after thirty (30) days unless renewed by concurrent resolution of the Legislature,

whichever occurs first. Any such emergency proclaimed by the Legislature shall terminate upon passage by the Legislature.

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

Law Enforcement/Bernardo-Mills Law: [HB 3065](#) by Rep. Neil Hays (R-Checotah) Sen. Blake Stephens (R-Tablequah) 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 on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 93 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

Funding Restrictions/Illegal Immigrants: [HB 3071](#) by Rep. Neil Hays (R-Checotah) and Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) prohibits the use of any state revenues, whether derived from taxes, fees, assessments, or any other source to benefit a person who is not authorized to federal immigration law to be in the US. The restrictions are also applicable to a minor born in any state in the US if either the mother or father of the minor is not lawfully authorized to be present in the US. "Benefits" does not include incarceration of a person or transportation of a person to an out-of-state destination; law enforcement agencies or personnel to investigate incidents involving domestic violence; law enforcement agencies or personnel to investigate incidents involving human trafficking; or providing education to children from pre-kindergarten through the twelfth grade. The provisions and restrictions are also applicable to the use of state revenues by any political subdivision of the state or by any other legal entity. The bill does not restrict the ability of a person or entity to provide emergency medical services to a person if the services are required to be provided pursuant to federal law.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday but was rescinded and amended on the House floor on Thursday. The bill passed by a [vote](#) of 71 to 17. The bill moves to the Senate.

Preemption/Landlord-Tenant Regulations: [HB 3095](#) by Rep. Mark Tedford (R-Tulsa) preempts the regulation of residential tenancies, the landlord-tenant relationship, and all other matters covered under this title. This title supersedes any local government regulations on matters covered under this title, including, but not limited to, the screening process used by a landlord in approving tenancies; security deposits; rental agreement applications and fees associated with such applications; terms and conditions of rental agreements; the rights and responsibilities of the landlord and tenant; disclosures concerning the premises; the dwelling unit; the rental agreement; or the rights and responsibilities of the landlord and tenant; fees charged by the landlord; or notice requirement. The bill prohibits landlords from retaliating against a tenant by taking an action because the tenant: exercises their rights in good faith exercises or attempts to exercise against a landlord a right or remedy granted to the tenant by lease, municipal ordinance, or federal or state statute; gives a landlord a notice to exercise a remedy; complains to a governmental entity about building or housing code violations, a public utility or a civic or nonprofit agency; or forms tenant organizations. A landlord may not retaliate against a tenant, within sixty (60) days after the date of the tenant's action. Tenants who face retaliation may recover damages, including one month's rent and Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), actual damages, court costs, and attorney's fees. If a tenant files a suit in bad faith, the landlord may recover possession of the dwelling unit and a civil penalty. Retaliation by landlords is a defense in eviction suits, and tenants can deduct rent as a defense for nonpayment.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 80 to 10. The bill moves to the Senate.

Electrical Licensing Act: [HB 3215](#) by Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) and Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) modifies alters the qualifications for electrical licensing exams for electrical contractors or journeyman electricians. A passing score of seventy

percent (70%) or higher on each part is considered a passing score. Any applicants who fail shall not be permitted to take another examination for a period of thirty (30) days. An apprentice registration certificate or a student intern registration certificate shall be issued for one (1) year, at which time the apprentice may reregister upon meeting the requirements of the Construction Industries Board and paying the renewal fee. Effective January 1, 2026, continuing education requirements for electrical contractors, journeymen, and apprentices shall not be renewed unless the licensee has completed twelve (12) hours of continuing education every three (3) years or thirty-six (36) months preceding the expiration of the license or registration certificate. The courses must be approved by the Committee of Electrical Examiners and cover specified topics. Apprentices must complete three (3) hours of continuing education annually for registration renewal. Continuing education is not required for apprentices who are students or enrolled in an approved course.

The bill passed the House on Monday by a [vote](#) of 73 to 20. The bill moves to the Senate.

Elections/Prohibit the Private Funding of Election Act: [HB 3294](#) by Rep. Mark Lepak (R-Claremore) and Sen. Shane Jett (R-Shawnee) prohibits government official or election officials from receiving services or funds, which may or may not be credits offsets, or other inducements, directly offered from a membership organization of which the government official of election official is a member, for the purposes of conducting and administering elections. Any election official who, in his or her official capacity, joins any membership organization, or who utilizes public funds to pay membership dues to any membership organization, shall disclose such membership on the website for the election official's agency. In the event the election official's agency does not have a website, a notice of such membership shall be displayed conspicuously in a public area of the agency's office. No election official in his or her official capacity shall join any membership organization that uses private funds for the purposes of conducting and administering elections.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 72 to 18. The bill moves to the Senate.

Prevention of Youth Access to Tobacco Act: [HB 3331](#) by Rep. Cynthia Roe (R-Lindsay) modifies the fines of selling, giving, or furnishing tobacco products, nicotine products, or vapor products to anyone who is under twenty-one (21) years of age to include the store owner when there is a sale to a minor. The fines increase from One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) to Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for the first offense to both the employee and the store owner. The fines continue to increase for subsequent violations.

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

Energy Discrimination Elimination Act of 2022: [HB 3541](#) by Rep. Mark Lepak (R-Claremore) and Sen. Shane Jett (R-Shawnee) expands the application of the Energy Discrimination Act of 2022 to private financial firms and adds boycotts against timber, mining, and agricultural companies as a reason to be included as a listed financial company. The bill modifies the standard for contract termination with a listed financial company or divestment of public money that is held, managed, or advised by a listed financial company. The bill removes the contracting prohibition for political subdivisions.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 78 to 15. The bill moves to the Senate.

Oklahoma Fusion Center: [HB 3542](#) by Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) creates the Oklahoma Fusion Center. Beginning November 1, 2024, the Oklahoma Fusion Center shall cease to be under DPS and become a separate and distinct state agency. The bill creates a twelve (12) member Oklahoma Counterterrorism Information Commission. Two (2) of the members appointed shall be chiefs of police from a list of names submitted by the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police, one of whom shall be a chief of police of a municipality with a population over forty thousand (40,000) and one shall be a chief of police of a municipality with a population under forty thousand (40,000). The Oklahoma Future Center Commission shall be the rulemaking body for the Oklahoma Fusion Center and shall have the power

and duty to establish policies, adopt and promulgate rules, appoint an Executive Director and other staff, and prepare a budget. The Oklahoma Fusion Center shall have the power and duty to 1) establish and maintain an information clearinghouse in order to accept and appropriately process intelligence information provided by law enforcement agencies, public safety agencies, private sector agencies, and concerned citizens; 2) provide informative reports and intelligence assessments, both strategic and tactical, for homeland security initiatives; 3) provide real-time intelligence support to law enforcement and public safety agencies; 4) consolidate information and data on suspicious activities and threats from all jurisdictions within Oklahoma and the public; 5) facilitate communication and collaboration with multidisciplinary partners including local, state, and federal law enforcement and non-governmental organizations; and 6) provide early warning of incidents at the local, regional, and state levels.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 89 to 5. The bill moves to the Senate.

Law Enforcement/DNA Labs: [HB 3568](#) by Rep. Robert Manger (R-OKC) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) requires OSBI to promulgate necessary policies, procedures, and forms for participation in a rapid DNA investigative lead program, a statewide program for law enforcement agencies, outlining the collection and processing of crime scene samples utilizing rapid DNA instrumentation. The bill authorizes the OSBI to promulgate program parameters as well as provide the procedures on technical and practical procedures for law enforcement agencies concerning the training, maintenance, and use of rapid DNA instruments throughout the state.

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

Firefighters/Fighting Chance for Firefighters Act: [HB 3573](#) by Rep. Daniel Pae (R-Lawton) and Sen. Blake Stephens (R-Tahlequah) creates the Fighting Chance for Firefighters Act. A plan offered by the Employees Group Insurance Division of OMES, that is offered, issued, or renewed in this state on or after the effective date of this act, which provides medical and surgical benefits, shall provide coverage for

annual comprehensive occupational cancer screenings for lung, prostate, testicular, skin, colon, and breast cancer. This coverage shall be offered to all members, including volunteers, of fire departments as defined in Title 11, 18 and 19 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Coverage is not subject to any annual deductible, copayments, or coinsurance limits as established for all covered benefits under the health benefit plan.

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

Law Enforcement/Body Cameras: [HB 3598](#) by Rep. Brian Hill (R-Yukon) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) directs law enforcement agencies to establish policies and procedures relating to the use, maintenance, and storage of body cameras and the data recorded by body cameras. One of the policies include permitting a peace officer using a body camera to review the recorded footage from the body camera, upon his or her own initiative and request, before writing a report or providing a statement regarding an event arising within the scope of his or her official duties. A law enforcement agency that permits its peace officers to wear body cameras shall ensure they are trained in the policies and procedures of the law enforcement agency; retain audio and video data recorded in accordance with the requirements of the Oklahoma Open Records Act; and perform periodic reviews to ensure conformity with the policies and procedures of the law enforcement agency.

The bill passed the House on Monday by a [vote](#) of 72 to 20. The bill moves to the Senate.

Real Estate Contracts: [HB 3704](#) by Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) and Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) a real estate contract for the sale, conveyance, or exchange of real property, option to purchase real property, or a lease with an option to purchase real property may include a contingency for the purposes of securing required permits, lot changes, zoning changes, and any other land use approvals necessary to use and operate the real property.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 83 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

Jail Standards Act: [HB 3757](#) by Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) creates the Oklahoma Jail Standards Act. Inspections shall be limited to the specific requirements set forth in the Oklahoma Jail Standards Act or rules promulgated. A county, municipality, or public trust that operates a detention facility may request a waiver, including a waiver for a temporary emergency resulting from a natural or man-made disaster, from provisions of the Oklahoma Jail Standards Act or rules promulgated pursuant thereto upon a showing that application of such provision would impose undue hardship upon the county, municipality, or public trust, or upon the inmates held at such facility. All requests shall be filed with the Department and shall include justification demonstrating the undue hardship. The waiver application shall also include a plan for the housing and care of detention facility inmates for the duration of the waiver and identification of all specific provisions of the Oklahoma Jail Standards Act requesting to be waived. The Department may grant the waiver request in whole or in part and may, as a condition of granting the waiver, require the county, municipality, or public trust to submit a plan and timetable for compliance with the standards. The Department shall promulgate rules and establish procedures necessary to implement the waiver process established by this paragraph. Any detention facility constructed or substantially remodeled prior to or on or after the effective date of this act shall be required to follow the requirements and standards in effect at the time of such construction or remodeling. Plans for the construction of a new detention facility or the substantial remodeling of an existing detention facility shall be submitted to the Department for review and approval. The bill sets specific standards for the facilities. Each detention facility must have written policies and procedures subject to the Oklahoma Jail Standards Act.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 92 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate.

Law Enforcement/Retired Officers: [HB 3786](#) by Rep. John George (R-Newalla) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) does not require a retired peace officer applying for an armed security guard license

or armed private investigator license or a combination thereof to provide a set of classifiable fingerprints to CLEET and shall be exempt from the provisions of paragraph 2 of this subsection upon submitting to CLEET a notarized letter confirming that the peace officer retired in good standing from a law enforcement agency within this state.

The bill passed the House on Monday by a [vote](#) of 77 to 18. The bill moves to the Senate.

Law Enforcement Staff/OLERS: [HB 3807](#) by Rep. Ty Burns (R-Pawnee) and Sen. Jessica Garvin (R-Duncan) authorizes participating agencies may make an irrevocable written election to become participating employers in OLERS for their Board-designated law enforcement support staff who directly support CLEET certified law enforcement officers and are employed by a participating employer. The Board shall determine the allowable law enforcement support staff eligible for transfer and may cease new membership if it is determined that the support staff is no longer eligible. The bill sets up new hires to automatically become members of OLERS. Existing participants of OPERS and Pathfinders may elect to become members of OLERS. Past service credits may be purchased at the actuarial costs.

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

OUBCC: [HB 3819](#) by Rep. Lonnie Sims (R-Jenks) and Sen. Joe Newhouse (R-Tulsa) 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.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 88 to 2. The bill moves to the Senate.

OK Disaster Resilience Act/Interagency Resilience Coordination Council: [HB 3820](#) by Rep. Lonnie Sims (R-Jenks) and Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) creates the Oklahoma Natural Disaster Protection and Preparedness Act. The bill replaces the State Hazard Mitigation Team with the Interagency Resilience Coordination Council led by the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management. Each agency director in the executive branch of the state government shall designate at least one person to serve as the agency's resilience officer and shall transmit the name and contact information of each designed to the Department of Emergency Management. The agency resilience officers shall coordinate activities with ODEMA and serve on the Interagency Resilience Coordination Council.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 94 to 2. The bill moves to the Senate.

Governor's Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives: [HB 3840](#) by Rep. Ajay Pittman (D-OKC) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) establishes within the Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services an Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives (Office). In order to maximize the effectiveness of state government through collaboration with faith-based and community initiatives to serve Oklahomans with respect to public purposes, such as improving public safety, overcoming addiction, strengthening families and communities, and overcoming poverty, OFBCI, to the extent permitted by law. The Office may work with state, local, and community policymakers, volunteers, and public officials to facilitate coordination with and empowerment of faith-based and community organizations, where doing so, would improve such groups' service to the communities involved. The Office may work with

local governments, private organizations, and citizens as it plans and engages in activities related to the Office.

The bill passed the House with the title stricken on Monday by a [vote](#) of 91 to 2. The bill moves to the Senate.

Police Pension and Retirement System/Late Charges: [HB 3858](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) provides for a monthly late fee of five percent (5%) of the unpaid balance to be paid by the municipality to the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System. The bill also updates to the latest revision of the IRS Code, effective for calendar years after 2023 with respect to certain distributions shall be considered.

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

(OML Support) Courts/Notification/Time Limits: [HB 3885](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) increases the time limitation from one hundred twenty days (120) to one (1) year for the municipal or district court to notify Service Oklahoma from the date the citation was issued by the arresting officer.

The bill passed the House on Monday by a [vote](#) of 91 to 2. The bill moves to the Senate.

Sales Tax Exemption/Hearing Aids: [HB 3912](#) by Rep. Chad Caldwell (R-Enid) and Sen. Ally Seifried (R-Claremore) 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.

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

County Assessors/Municipal Building Permits: [HB 3941](#) by Rep. Melissa Provenzano (D-Tulsa) and Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Wilson) requires cities and towns to transmit a copy of any building permit issued within its boundaries to the county assessor no later thirty (30) days after the date of issuance. Cities and towns must provide the county assessor

with electronic copies of building permits, where available and feasible.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 61 to 30. The bill moves to the Senate.

CLEET/Training Reimbursement: [HB 3998](#) by Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) and Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) provides that if an employing law enforcement agency has paid for a peace officer's training and within one (1) year after the date the person is commissioned with the law enforcement agency resigns and is hired by another law enforcement agency in this state, the second law enforcement agency shall reimburse the original employing agency for the cost of CLEET training and salary paid to the person while completing the basic police course by the original law enforcement agency. If the person leaves the original employing law enforcement agency later than one (1) year, but less than two (2) years, after the date the person is commissioned, the second law enforcement agency shall reimburse the original law enforcement agency fifty percent (50%) of the CLEET costs and salary paid to the person while completing the training.

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

Firefighter Pension and Retirement System/Military Credit: [HB 4051](#) by Rep. Stan May (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) allows a member who served in the Armed Forces of the United States or any component thereof and who was honorably discharged may receive up to five years of prior or participating military service credit, only upon payment of the actuarial cost of service credit as determined by the Oklahoma Firefighters. The service credit provided shall be administered pursuant to subsections B through D of this section, including but not limited to, only full-time active duty military service not for training only purposes, unless discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability, as reflected on the members Defense Department Form 214, shall be considered for prior service credit and such prior service credit shall only be used in determining the member's retirement benefit but shall not be used in determining years of service for retirement, vesting purposes or eligibility for participating in the Oklahoma Firefighters Deferred Option Plan.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 95 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

Police Pension & Retirement System Increase: [SB 102](#) by Sen. Jessica Garvin (R-Duncan) and Rep. Steve Bashore (R-Miami) modifies the term "accrued retirement benefit". The bill also increases the municipality's contribution to fourteen percent (14%) on or after the effective date and the member's contribution is increased to nine percent (9%) on or after this act.

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 46 to 0. The bill moves to the House.

Volunteer Firefighter Retirement: [SB 453](#) by Sen. Jessica Garvin (R-Duncan) and Rep. Anthony Moore (R-Clinton) 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.

The bill passed the Senate on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 42 to 0. The bill moves to the House.

Law Enforcement/Cyberbullying: [SB 1100](#) by Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) and Rep. Steve Bashore (R-Miami) modifies the penalties for any person willfully aiding a person in attempting to take his or her own life. An individual that is convicted of a crime is guilty of a felony and subject to a maximum fine of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisonment not to exceed two (2) years or both. The bill also provides that any person guilty of a felony that can be shown to be the proximate cause of the attempted suicide of the victim of such offense shall, upon conviction, be guilty of willfully aiding a person in attempting to take his or her own life. The bill also creates a maximum fine of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for any person found to have aided suicide. It expands anti-bullying provisions of law to include online platforms. The bill defines "online platform" as a website or online application that is open to the public, allows a user to create an account, and enables users to communicate with other users for the primary

purpose of posting information, comments, messages, or images. A person convicted of a crime relating to these provisions shall be subject to a maximum fine of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or imprisonment in the county jail for up to one (1) year, or both. Any person convicted for a subsequent offense shall be subject to a maximum fine of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisonment in the county jail for up to two (2) years. If a person is found guilty of a third or subsequent offense is subject to higher fines and prison time in DOC.

The bill passed the Senate on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 38 to 8. The bill moves to the House.

DEQ/Blue River-Little Blue Creek Stream Health Assessment Study: [SB 1273](#) by Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Wilson) and Rep. Tammy Townley (R-Ardmore) creates a fund in DEQ to be designated the Blue River-Little Blue Creek Stream Health Assessment Study Revolving Fund. DEQ is required to coordinate with the Center for Reservoir and Aquatic Systems Research at Baylor University for the purpose of defining the study scope and conducting the work necessary to complete data collection and the development of the Blue River-Little Blue Creek Stream Health Assessment Study. The bill appropriates to DEQ from any monies not otherwise appropriated from the General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the sum of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) or so much thereof as may be necessary to perform the duties imposed upon the Department by law.

The bill passed the Senate on Monday by a [vote](#) of 38 to 7. The bill moves to the House.

Law Enforcement/ARIDE: [SB 1279](#) by Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) and Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) authorizes DPS to establish and administer a pilot program to increase the availability of Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) training. The purpose of the program is to increase the number of peace officers qualified to conduct certain drug-impairment screening tests during impaired driving investigations. DPS is authorized to fund, administer the program, and establish grant criteria regarding the administration of the

program. There is one time funding to DPS of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00).

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 44 to 2. The bill moves to the House.

Grocery Sales Tax Exemption/Terms: [SB 1283](#) by Sen. Pro Tempore Greg Treat (R-OKC) and Speaker Charles McCall (R-Atoka) amends definitions for "bottled water" to mean water that is placed in a safety sealed container or package for human consumption. It also defines food sold with eating utensils provided by the seller shall be subject to the sales tax. Prepared food shall not include food sold in an unheated state by weight, food sold by a seller whose primary North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) classification is that of a manufacturer, subsector 311, or volume as a single item or food sold that ordinarily requires additional cooking.

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 43 to 2. The bill moves to the House.

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 have full discretion of all monies within the fund 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 One Hundred Twenty-Five Million Dollars (\$125,000,000.00).

The bill passed the Senate on Monday by a [vote](#) of 38 to 5. The bill moves to the House.

Water/Groundwater Permits: [SB 1341](#) by Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) and Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) requires holders of water permits to remit the annual use of water report not later than January 31 of the year following the permitted use and shall contain usage data. Nonuse, conservation, or usage practices that result in less usage than the permitted annual yield shall not result in diminishment of the permit holder's future permitted annual yield. Complaints by any individual in violation of the provisions of subsection A of this section shall be made to the Board and to the local groundwater irrigation district if such district is established pursuant to the laws of this state. Investigation of such complaints by the Board shall be made in collaboration with the local groundwater irrigation district. The bill further requires all holders of a use permit to equip each well with a water well flow meter or an alternative measuring system. The meter or alternative measuring system shall have contemporary, verifiable records. OWRB is directed to promulgate rules to establish a phase-in schedule and plan for the meter and measurement requirements. Such requirements shall be met within eight (8) years of the effective date.

The bill was [amended](#) and passed the Senate on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 37 to 5. The bill moves to the House.

Nonopioid Alternatives: [SB 1344](#) by Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) and Rep. Josh West (R-Grove) authorizes the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the State Department of Health, and the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to collaborate in finding funding opportunities for educational and health care services related to nonopioid alternatives as well as to assist political subdivisions that receive opioid grant awards under the Political Subdivisions Opioid Abatement Grants Act with the development and implementation of educational and health care services related to

nonopioid alternatives. The bill also prohibits the Authority and contracted entities from denying coverage of a nonopioid drug in favor of an opioid drug. The bill clarifies that it shall not preclude opioid drugs from being preferred over other opioid drugs or nonopioid drugs from being preferred over other nonopioid drugs.

The bill passed the Senate on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 46 to 0. The bill moves to the House.

Texting While Driving/Court Costs: [SB 1347](#) by Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) and Nicole Miller (R-Edmond) 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 people 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 with the title stricken passed the Senate on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 33 to 13. The bill moves to the House.

City-County Library Meetings: [SB 1378](#) by Sen. Kevin Matthews (D-Tulsa) and Rep. Monroe Nichols (D-Tulsa) modifies the number of meetings for the city-county library system to meet no fewer than six (6) times per year.

The bill passed the Senate on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 38 to 3. The bill moves to the House.

Arkansas River Levee Improvement Revolving Fund: [SB 1391](#) by Sen. Cody Rogers (R-Tulsa) and Speaker Pro Tempore Kyle Hilbert (R-Bristow) creates the Arkansas River Levee Improvement Revolving Fund for the purpose of providing levee improvements and matching funds for levee projects. The bill appropriates to OWRB for the fiscal

year ending June 30, 2023, the sum of Fifty Million Dollars (\$50,000,000.00) or so much thereof as may be necessary to perform the duties imposed upon the Board.

The bill passed the Senate on Monday by a [vote](#) of 40 to 4. The bill moves to the House.

Law Enforcement/OK Child Abduction Response Teams (OCARTs): [SB 1407](#) by Sen. Roger Thompson (R-Okemah) and Rep. John George (R-Newalla) authorizes the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to create and administer Oklahoma child abduction response teams (OCARTs). OCARTs shall be created by the Commissioner in coordination with federal, state, tribal, county, municipal law enforcement agencies, and appropriate social services agencies. Each member of the OCART shall be responsible for its own acts or omissions under The Governmental Tort Claims Act, or otherwise under state or federal law. The Commissioner is authorized to accept contributions, donations, and gifts in support of OCART programs. The Commissioner is authorized to local OCART committees. The members of OCART shall be CLEET certified peace officers, communications personnel, administrative personnel, support personnel, and multidisciplinary professionals reasonably necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act. The eleven (11) member OCART Committee shall consist of one representative who is an active chief of police from the applicable region or a designee. In conjunction with the OCART coordinator, each OCART committee shall develop a plan for mounting a coordinated response to a verified child abduction. Within four (4) hours of receiving a report of verified child abduction, the law enforcement agency receiving the report shall notify the applicable OCART point of contact. Law enforcement agencies are authorized to utilize the automated license plate readers (ALPRs) in carrying out a coordinated response. Each law enforcement member of an OCART committee shall receive initial training and an annual refresher training as determined by the Commissioner.

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 47 to 0. The bill moves to the House.

Large-Scale Economic Activity & Development

Act: [SB 1428](#) by Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Wilson) and Rep. Tammy Townley (R-Ardmore) creates an investment rebate program for qualifying entities as defined in the Large-Scale Economic Activity and Development Act until July 1, 2030. The rebate shall be equal to six and twenty-five hundredths' percent (6.25%) of the cost of the qualified capital expenditure in the year of expenditure. Such entities must apply outlining capital expenditures of Eight Hundred Million Dollars (\$800,000,000.00) or more in the state, prove that they made qualified capital expenditures of no less than twenty percent (20%) of the capital expenditure plan, and proved they filed their tax returns and documents required by law. The Department of Commerce shall approve or disapprove applications and use monies from the newly created Commerce Manufacturing Activity Development Fund. The measure appropriates Fifty Million Dollars (\$50,000,000.00) from the General Revenue Fund to the newly created Fund. Any amount remaining in the Fund after 2030 shall be returned to the General Revenue Fund.

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

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 on 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 on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 43 to 3. The bill moves to the House.

Sales Tax Exemptions/OSU: [SB 1445](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) and Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) creates a new sales tax exemption for providing exemption for the OSU Medical Authority, the OSU Medical Authority Trust, the OSU Veterinary Medicine Authority, and the OSU Veterinary Medicine Trust to extend to any person that has duly entered into a public contract with the entities.

The bill passed the Senate with the title restored on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 39 to 4. The bill moves to the House.

Economic Development/COMPETE Act: [SB 1447](#)

by Sen. Kristen Thompson (R-Edmond) and Rep. Mike Osburn (R-Edmond) creates the Creating Oklahoma's Modern Plan for Economic Transformation and Effectiveness (COMPETE) Act. The bill creates a separate and distinct agency to be designated as the Oklahoma Office of Economic Development, Growth, and Expansion. All responsibilities pertaining to economic development currently held by the Department of Commerce shall be transferred to the newly created Office. The Office shall: strategically drive opportunities for economic growth and diversification across the state; collaborate across local, regional, and state entities; coordinate the funding and investment activities of each element of the state economic development efforts and marketing campaigns; and act as the principal point of contact regarding investment in this state for public officials, businesses, and the public.

There is created a nine (9) member board: three (3) members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; provided at least one appointed

member shall be from a municipality with a population of sixty thousand (60,000) people or less; three (3) members appointed by the Speaker of the House; provided, at least one appointed member shall be from a municipality with a population of sixty thousand (60,000) people or less; and three (3) members appointed by the Governor; provided at least one appointed member shall be an economic development practitioner from this state. The bill also creates the Division on Economic Development, Growth and Expansion within the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

The Legislature shall create the Legislative Evaluation and Development Committee. The Committee shall review financing or individual incentive packages which shall include packages offering tax incentives, funds for economic development, and when the annual investment exceeds Seventy-five Million Dollars (\$75,000,000.00). The bill also creates the Economic Development, Growth, and Expansion Revolving Fund, which shall consist of all monies received by the Office from appropriations and donations, grants, contributions, or gifts from any public or private source.

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 36 to 11. The bill moves to the House.

Law Enforcement/Retail Theft: [SB 1450](#) by Sen. Pro Tempore Greg Treat (R-OKC) and Rep. John George (R-Newalla) 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, the persons taking the property use a getaway driver or the persons use a paper, fraudulent, altered, or obstructed license plate, use a license plate meant for a different vehicle, or do not have any license plate as a means of evading detection. 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 on Monday by a [vote](#) of 40 to 5. The bill moves to the House.

Workers' Compensation Court of Existing Claims: [SB 1456](#) by Sen. Pro Tempore Greg Treat (R-OKC) 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. Such an appointment shall be a two-year term to run concurrently with the Chief Justice and be an additional duty requirement. 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 on Monday by a [vote](#) of 42 to 3. The bill moves to the House.

Worker's Compensation/PTSD: [SB 1457](#) by Sen. Pro Tempore Greg Treat (R-OKC) and Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) 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). During any period in which a first responder is temporarily unable to perform his or her job, the employer must pay to maintain health insurance coverage for the first responder if such health insurance was in effect on the date of the injury. Claim payments for volunteer firefighters shall be paid pursuant to the Volunteer Firefighter Group Insurance Pool.

The bill passed the Senate on Monday by a [vote](#) of 44 to 1. The bill moves to the House.

Sales Tax Exemption/Governmental and Nonprofit Entity Contracts: [SB 1502](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) and Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) creates a sales tax exemption for sales made to a contractor or subcontractor that has entered into a contractual relationship with an entity exempted pursuant to Subsection B of this section for construction or expansion of a building or facility shall be considered sales made to the exempt entity. Provided, all sales to contractors in connection with the performance of any contract with the United States government, State of Oklahoma or any of its political subdivisions shall not be exempted from the tax levied by Section 1350 et seq. of this title, except as hereinafter provided.

The bill passed as [amended](#) and with the title restored on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 42 to 2. The bill moves to the House.

Firefighters Pension/Volunteers: [SB 1524](#) by Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) and Rep. Danny Sterling (R-Tecumseh) provides that a retired, paid firefighter performing volunteer firefighting services shall not accrue additional years of credited service for such services. A retired volunteer firefighter receiving the maximum allowable accrued retirement benefit may return as a volunteer firefighter for a volunteer fire department and continue to receive the members retirement benefit; however, the retired volunteer firefighter shall not further accrue years of service during such period. The bill specifies the benefit shall cease during any time period the retiree may thereafter serve for the compensation in any municipal fire department in the state; provided further, no person shall perform any services as a volunteer firefighter if such person is receiving disability benefits. Maximum allowable accrued retirement benefit means a benefit calculated using thirty (30) years of credited service. If the member has elected to participate in the Oklahoma Firefighters Deferred Option Plan (DROP), credited service for benefit calculation shall be calculated as of the date the member begins participation in the Plan, or the backdrop date if elected. No person serving as a firefighter pursuant to this section shall be eligible to serve as the fire chief. Pursuant to Section 49-100.1 of this title, the fire chief shall be an active member of the System within a participating municipality of which he or she is the fire chief.

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

Law Enforcement/Terrorism Threat: [SB 1579](#) by Sen. Warren Hamilton (R-McCurtain) and Rep. John George (R-Newalla) authorizes the Commissioner of DPS to assign to personnel of DPS to collect information concerning the activity and identity of individuals reasonably suspected of involvement in terrorism, threats to public safety, organized crime, criminal conspiracies, or any other threats of violent crime; analyze the information and disseminate it to other law enforcement and public safety agencies; coordinate with state, local and federal agencies to

protect against terrorism threats, organized crimes, criminal conspiracies, or other threats of violent crime; and provide training to peace officers of this state concerning the legal collection, preservation, and dissemination of crime-related information. The bill also prohibits release of certain information; providing exceptions to release of certain information. It creates a misdemeanor offense for unauthorized release and unauthorized use of the information. The Commissioner of DPS is authorized to promulgate rules to implement the provisions in this section of law.

The bill passed the Senate on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 32 to 5. The bill moves to the House.

Electric Vehicle Charging Act: [SB 1587](#) by Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) and Rep. Brian Hill (R-Mustang) modifies the definition of electric vehicle as it relates to the Oklahoma Electric Vehicle Charging Act to require such vehicles to draw current from fuel cells to power an electric motor. The bill defines "fuel cell" to mean a cell that converts the chemical energy of hydrogen directly into electricity through electrochemical reactions. The bill also defines "hydrogen fueling station" to mean any equipment that dispenses hydrogen into a motor vehicle or electric vehicle powered by a fuel cell. The bill clarifies that the provisions of the Act shall not be construed as to prohibit an electric supplier or municipal corporation from operating, leasing, installing, or otherwise procuring service from an electric vehicle charging station or hydrogen fueling station on its own premises for the sole purpose of serving its own electric vehicles that is not open to the public. The bill does not apply to fueling stations that were constructed, provided by, owned, operated, or maintained by a retail electric supplier or municipal corporation prior to November 1, 2023.

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

Law Enforcement/Search Warrants: [SB 1660](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Rep. Collin Duel (R-Guthrie) allows for search warrants to be issued for persons for whom an arrest warrant has been issued and bring the property or person before the magistrate. The bill defines "arrest warrant" to mean an outstanding arrest warrant for any felony offense

or a misdemeanor offense of domestic assault and battery. The term shall include arrest and bench warrants but shall not include warrants issued solely for failure to pay court financial obligations, other than restitution. Such a search warrant may be used by peace officers to enter the residence of another person who is not the subject of an arrest warrant to find the person listed on the search warrant. The bill requires an officer executing such a warrant to return the search warrant to the magistrate who authorized the warrant or to a magistrate who presides in the judicial district in which the person was found by filing an arrest and booking affidavit or by filing a separate return identifying the person and the location where the person was found.

The bill passed with the title restored on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 43 to 1. The bill moves to the House.

Ownership of Land/Foreign Governments: [SB 1705](#) by Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) and Rep. Neil Hays (R-Checotah) prohibits foreign governments and foreign government enterprises from acquiring land and authorizes the Attorney General to provide certain additional exemptions. Land means the same as defined in Section 6 of this title, but shall not include oil, gas, other minerals, or any interest therein. Foreign government means a government other than the federal government of the United States, the government of any state, political subdivision of the state, tribe, territory, or possession of the United States. The required affidavit shall not apply to deeds which confirm, corrects, modifies, or supplements a deed previously recorded as well as deeds made by a grantor to correct a defect in the title, transfer on death deeds, a state or federal court order in an action to quiet title or to cure a defect in title, deeds which secure a debt or other obligation, deeds of dedication to the public, and deeds in favor of the United States or any of its political subdivisions or the tribes. The bill authorizes the AG to provide additional exemptions and allows the county clerk to accept an affidavit in substantial compliance with the affidavit form promulgated by the AG.

The bill passed the Senate on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 38 to 1. The bill moves to the House.

Groundwater Irrigation Districts: [SB 1914](#) by Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) and Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) requires all permit holders within a groundwater irrigation district to participate.

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 38 to 4. The bill moves to the House.

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.

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 47 to 0. The bill moves to the House.

REAP Reporting: [SB 2008](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) and Rep. Toni Hasenbeck (R-Elgin) requires each entity to develop a plan to measure the qualitative effects of projects funded through the Rural Economic Action Plan of 1996. The plan may utilize inquiries or surveys of the public, local governments, or municipalities to measure the effect. On or before January 1, 2027, each entity required to develop a plan shall submit a report to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce detailing the qualitative effects of at least two projects that received funds pursuant to the Rural Economic Action Plan of 1996. Any expenditures associated with creating the plan required by subsection A of this section and the report required by subsection B

of this section shall be made using the initial planning expenditure payments.

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 36 to 7. The bill moves to the House.

State Question/Public Infrastructure Districts: [SJR 16](#) by Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Terry O'Donnell (R-Catoosa) proposes a state question for the people to amend the Oklahoma Constitution by adding a new Section 9E of Article X by allowing the creation of Public Infrastructure Districts. The joint resolution authorizes municipalities to approve the creation of such districts using district bonds to pay for all or part of the cost of public improvements within such districts. A public infrastructure district shall not be created unless the petition filed in the municipality contains one hundred percent (100%) of surface property owners in the proposed public infrastructure district. The levy shall be in addition to all other levies authorized by this Constitution, and when approved, shall be made for the repayment of the public infrastructure districts bonds. The resolution also authorizes the Legislature to enact such laws as may be necessary in order to implement public infrastructure districts.

The resolution passed the Senate on Monday by a [vote](#) of 38 to 7. The resolution moves to the House.