

07-24

March 22, 2024

In This Issue:

Spring Break = Short Week	1
OML Legislative Reception	1
OML Priorities Still Alive	2
Next Week at the Capitol	2



Spring Break = Short Week

This was Spring Break week in Oklahoma, and has become tradition, the Legislature only met on Monday and Tuesday in order to spend time with their families. The short week was as a welcome break after the fast pace that was set from the beginning of Session. The next legislative deadline will be for April 11th for bills to pass out of committee. Before a bill can be heard in committee it must first be assigned to a committee. The Senate has started to assign bills, and the House will be doing the assignments next week.

On Tuesday, the Senate passed [SR 31](#) by Sen. Roger Thompson (R-Okemah) that outlines the start of the fiscal year 2025 budget negotiations. The resolution lays out that the Board of Equalization approved \$13,956,772,329.00. With the passage of HB 1955, the impact of eliminating the state portion on of sales tax on groceries is \$312,921,341.00. The total available recurring revenue available for the FY-25 leaving \$11,606,823,540.00 available for the budget negotiations.

Budget negotiations will ramp up once the Legislators return to the Capitol.

OML Legislative Reception

Mark Your Calendar for April 3rd

Come join the fun on April 3rd for OML's Annual Legislative Reception. OML has invited all legislators to come but we would love for you to extend that invitation as well and join them as we celebrate cities and towns.

The reception is scheduled from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Building. Please send your RSVP by April 1 to Sarah@oml.org.

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

Oklahoma Municipal League
201 N.E. 23rd Street
OKC, OK 73105
Phone: 1-800-324-6651 /
405-528- 7515
Fax: 405-528-7560
Email: leslie@oml.org
Internet: www.oml.org

OML Priorities Still Alive

[HB 2362](#) by Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) and Sen. Jessica Garvin (R-Duncan) codifies new standards for biennial municipal audit compliance and reporting for municipalities with a population of less than 2,500.

[HB 2966](#) by Rep. Ken Luttrell (R-Ponca City) and Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) designates the assault and battery on a municipal, county and state officials engaged in lawful performance of their duties as a crime. It has been assigned to the Senate Public Committee.

[SB 1635](#) by Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) and Rep. T.J. Marti (R-Broken Arrow) requires an annual certificate of compliance from municipalities to OMMA for any renewal of a marijuana dispensary, grower, or processor license.

[SB 1510](#) by Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) and Rep. Nick Archer (R-Elk City) removes partisanship from municipal bidding by excluding political subdivisions from the requirements of the Energy Discrimination Elimination Act.

Next Week at the Capitol

(As of time of distribution this is a list of the meetings that have been posted.)

Monday, March 25, 2024:

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

Oklahoma Route 66 Commission: [HB 3232](#) by Rep. Mark Lawson (R-Sapulpa) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) removes the expiration date of the Commission.

Sales Tax Holiday/Firearm Ammunition: [HB 3429](#) by Rep. Nick Archer (R-Elk City) and Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) creates a sales tax holiday for the sale of rifle firearm ammunition to be used in connection with deer hunting if the sales price of the article is less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) and the sales took place during the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Friday before annual deer gun season as determined by the Dept. of Wildlife

Conservation and ends at midnight on the following Sunday.

Senate Business & Commerce Committee **2:00 p.m., Room 4s.9**

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.

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Senate Retirement & Insurance Committee **2:00 p.m., Room 230**

OPERS/Emergency Medical Personnel: [HB 1805](#) by Rep. Neil Hays (R-Checotah) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) 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.

Retirement/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.

Firefighters Pension & Retirement System: [HB 2991](#) by Rep. Josh West (R-Grove) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) amends the Firefighters Pension & Retirement System to conform with the IRS Code.

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.