

01-25

February 7, 2025

## In This Issue:

|  |    |
|--|----|
| We're Off - 60 <sup>th</sup> Legislative Session has Begun | 1  |
| OML's Priorities   | 2  |
| Bills on the Move  | 3  |
| Next Week at the Capitol                                   | 7  |
| Advocating for Your Community                              | 12 |

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### WE'RE OFF - 60<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION HAS BEGUN

Welcome to the first issue of the Oklahoma Municipal League's 2025 weekly Legislative Advocate. The Advocate is intended to give you a brief look at important issues facing cities and towns during the legislative process. With nearly 3,200 filed in the Oklahoma Legislature this year this session starts with new leadership in both the House and Senate. There has been reform to the committees on both sides as well. With over 600 bills on OML's tracking lists cover firearms, tax exemptions, open records, environmental and water along with many other issues. That count does not include the more than 800 shell bills that were filed, so the lists may still grow.

Governor Kevin Stitt unveiled his proposals for the upcoming legislative session in his 2025 State of the State on Monday. Stitt announced his priority to cut the income tax while safeguarding the State's savings. Governor Stitt also announced in his speech that he is creating DOGE-OK to focus on efficiency initiatives and eliminating wasteful government spending, improving efficiency, and ensuring taxpayer dollars are being used effectively across state government. [Click the link to read the rest of his speech.](#)

Your OML Governmental Affairs team has combed through each piece of legislation filed and we are working diligently to contact legislators and advocate municipal priorities on these bills. We will continue to provide updates in the OML Advocate each Friday throughout the session. If you have questions at any time, please contact our office. Please pass along any concerns, ideas, or correspondence about legislation you have to Leslie Blair, Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, at [leslie@oml.org](mailto:leslie@oml.org), or 405-528-7515.

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## OML'S PRIORITIES

**Sales Tax/Car Wash Fees:** [HB 1482](#) by Rep. Ellyn Hefner (D-OKC) authorizes a sales tax of four and one-half percent (4.5%) of gross receipts to be added to dues or fees for car wash memberships, clubs, or any other type of periodic payment plans for the use of automatic tunnel car washes. "Automatic tunnel car wash" means washing a vehicle by mechanical means, where the only activities performed by an employee include one or more of the following: 1) receiving payment for the transaction; 2) guiding the vehicle into the entrance or exit of the conveyor; 3) applying low-pressure spray of chemicals to vehicle prior to the cleaning of the vehicle; 4) placing protective tape or covers on the vehicle prior to cleaning. This does not include self-service car washes without automatic car washing mechanical components.

The bill has been assigned to the House Rules Committee.

**Ordinance Publications:** [SB 354](#) by Sen. Brian Guthrie (R-Bixby) and Rep. Jason Blair (R-Moore) removes the requirement for a municipality to have one (1) copy of the permanent volume and each biennial supplement of the municipality's penal ordinances in the county law library.

The bill has been assigned to the Senate Local and County Government Committee.

**Sales for Resale:** [SB 474](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) and Rep. Mark Lawson (R-Sapulpa) requires resellers to obtain a separate permit from the Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC) in order to make use of the sales for resale sales tax exemption. OTC may also develop a verification process for sellers to confirm that a reseller has the required permit. Failure the exemption is a misdemeanor crime subject to a fine up to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00).

The bill has been assigned to the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee.

**Open Records Requests:** [SB 535](#) by Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) and Rep. Daniel Pae (R-Lawton) adds an exception for confidential records to include records sought by a party or the party's

representative to a pending civil litigation or criminal prosecution in which the records may be sought through a subpoena process. Any home address, home telephone number, private electronic mail address, and private mobile phone number of a person may be confidential regardless of the person's status as a public employee or private individual and may be redacted or deleted prior to release of the record by the public body; provided, any address and telephone number used for business purposes may be made available for public inspection. The bill allows for a public body to require advance payment of the estimated fees authorized under this section when the estimated costs of searching, redacting, or making a copy of the record or records exceed Seventy-five Dollars (\$75.00). Any portion of an advance payment that exceeds the costs of responding to the request shall be returned to the requestor. If a records request is unreasonably vague, open-ended, or otherwise does not describe the requested records with reasonable specificity, a public body may ask the requestor to clarify the request. To have reasonable specificity, a request shall specify a general time frame within which the requested records would have been created or transmitted, seek identifiable records, rather than general information without any qualifiers or other specifications, and include search terms that are sufficiently specific to avoid generating an unreasonably large number of records, such as thousands of pages of emails. If a public body has engaged with the requestor to seek the information needed to fulfill the request and to reach a reasonable solution that accommodates the interests of both the requestor and the public body, including providing the requestor with general topics of records related to the request, the request may be denied if it is still not reasonably specific and would excessively disrupt the public body's essential function. An individual who challenges a city for records is found successful, they are entitled to reasonable attorney fees unless the court finds the public body or public official acted in good faith.

The bill has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**Firearms/Municipal Carry:** [SB 628](#) by Sen. Christi Gillespie (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Derrick Hildebrant (R-Catoosa) allows municipalities to

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authorize certain employees or public officials of the municipality, municipal public trust, or municipal authority who possess a valid handgun license and who have successfully completed any additional training or requirements as established by ordinance or resolution to carry a concealed handgun when acting in the course and scope of employment. Firearms may not be present in a firearm-prohibited location. Firearm prohibited location is defined as any room, location or other place on municipally owned, leased or maintained property designated as a firearm-prohibited location by the municipal government and any police department, courthouse, courtroom, prison, jail, detention facility, or any facility used to process, hold, or house arrested persons, prisoners, or persons alleged to be delinquent or adjudicated delinquent. Nothing shall be construed to allow municipal employees to carry a firearm as a duty or function of their employment. A municipality may authorize the public display of a firearm in a public building subject to policies established by the municipality, municipal public trust, or municipal authority.

The bill has been assigned to the Senate Public Safety Committee and will be heard on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Utility Service Plan:** [SB 650](#) by Pro Tempore Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) directs the governing body of a public utility to adopt a plan that provides 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 five (5) year capital improvement plan. The utility may adopt policies relating to the response to calls for sanitary sewer overflow (SSO), the introduction of fat and grease into the sewer system, adoption of ordinances requiring the construction or remodel of existing buildings to be connected to the sanitary sewer system and advising private residential property owners who are connected to the sanitary sewer system to install a backflow prevention system. OWRB and any other state agency that provides funding to public utilities for water and wastewater improvements shall ensure that the ranking structure for approval of funding applications

accounts for the sustainability efforts of systems that have adopted the plans.

The bill has been assigned to the Senate Energy Committee.

### **BILLS ON THE MOVE:**

**Law Enforcement/Criminal Offense:** [HB 1001](#) by Rep. Steve Bashore (R-Miami) and Sen. Kristen Thompson (R-Edmond) adds accessory to murder in the first degree or accessory to murder in the second degree to the list of crimes required not to serve less than eighty-five percent (85%).

The bill passed the House Judiciary - Civil Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 1. The bill moves to the House Judiciary and Public Safety Oversight Committee.

**Uniform Easement Relocation:** [HB 1060](#) by Rep. Jonathan Wilk (R-Goldsby) allows a servient estate owner to relocate an easement through a civil action if the relocation does not lessen its utility, increase the burden on the easement holder, impair its purpose or safety, or negatively impact the value or condition of the affected properties. The bill details the legal process for relocation and outlines the servient estate owner's responsibilities, including covering relocation costs and complying with safety and utility standards. Certain easements, including public utility and conservation easements, are excluded from relocation under this act.

The bill passed the House Judiciary - Civil Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the House Judiciary and Public Safety Oversight Committee.

**Computer Data & Privacy Act/Preemption:** [HB 1012](#) by Rep. Josh West (R-Grove) creates the Oklahoma Computer Data and Privacy Act. This bill entitles a consumer to request that a business that collects the consumer's personal information deletes any personal information the business has collected from the consumer. It contains several other provisions to ensure that the privacy of consumers' personal information. It also preempts any ordinance, order or rule adopted by a political subdivision of this state relating to the collection or sale by a business of a consumer's personal

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information. This bill contains penalties, definitions, and extensive details.

The bill passed the House Government Modernization and Technology Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 1. The bill moves to the House Commerce and Economic Development Oversight Committee.

**Right to Garden Act of 2025:** [HB 1189](#) by Rep. Rick West (R-Heavener) and Sen. George Burns (R-Pollard) creates the Oklahoma Right to Garden Act of 2025. The bill defines "vegetable garden" and "residential property". It is the right of citizens in Oklahoma to engage in growing their own vegetables in a garden on their personal property for personal consumption, subject to restrictions rationally related to a governmental purpose. A municipality, city or town is not prohibited from enacting content-neutral ordinances or regulations that address the following: limiting the size and proximity of gardens to roadways, structures, or other locations that impact health and safety; or the enforcement of constitutional and lawful ordinances adopted by municipalities that are in conformity with general powers that do not specifically ban gardening, including, but not limited to, regulations and ordinances related to water usage during drought conditions, fertilizer use, or control of invasive species.

The bill passed the House Agriculture Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 5 to 2. The bill moves to the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

**CIB/Penalties:** [HB 1216](#) by Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) adds roofing under CIB to regulate. The bill provides that any fines established by CIB for any second or subsequent violation of a law or rule to be set at five (5) times the amount of the fine set by the Board for initial violations. The Board shall amend its rules to be consistent with the fine amounts set. Collection of unpaid, finalized, administrative fines by the agency, directly or through contracted services unless otherwise provided in law, may be sought beginning ninety (90) days after final disposition and order of the matter through the processes established by this act and the APA.

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

moves to the House Government Oversight Committee.

**Law Enforcement/Crimes and Punishments:** [HB 1591](#) by Rep. John George (R-Newalla) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) adds specific crimes to the list of offenses to include domestic abuse by strangulation, domestic assault and battery with a deadly weapon, and aggravated assault and battery upon a law officer to the list of those crimes not to serve less than eighty-five percent (85% of any sentence.

The bill passed the House Judiciary - Criminal Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 4 to 1. The bill moves to the House Judiciary and Public Safety Oversight Committee.

**Oklahoma Organized Retail Crime:** [HB 1592](#) by Rep. John George (R-Newalla) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) defines "organized retail crime" based on specific circumstances involving theft, retail theft, or larceny. It establishes penalties based on the value of stolen property: up to five years in prison or a One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) fine for property valued below Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00); up to eight (8) years in prison or a One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) fine for property valued at Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) or more. It mandates restitution to victims as per Section 991f of Title 22. The term "municipalities" is added to the definition of the locations where a person can engage in a pattern of criminal offenses, expanding the scope of jurisdictions. The bill recreates the Oklahoma Organized Retail Crime Task Force. The members that are currently serving will automatically continue. The bill authorizes the AG to staff the task force and employ task force officers.

The bill was [amended](#) and passed the House Judiciary - Criminal Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 4 to 1. The bill moves to the House Judiciary and Public Safety Oversight Committee.

**Law Enforcement/Child Endangerment:** [HB 1731](#) by Rep. Anthony Moore (R-Clinton) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) modifies when a person commits child endangerment by adding impaired driving.

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The bill passed the House Judiciary – Criminal Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 5 to 1. The bill moves to the House Judiciary and Public Safety Oversight Committee.

**Unauthorized Camps:** [HB 1764](#) by Rep. Dell Kerbs (R-Shawnee) prohibits any person from using a state-owned, county-owned, or municipal-owned lands for the purposes of establishing an unauthorized camp. The governing body of any county or municipality may opt out of this section by a majority vote of the governing body.

The bill was [amended](#) and passed the House Judiciary – Criminal Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 4 to 1. The bill moves to the House Judiciary and Public Safety Oversight Committee.

**OWRB/MOU:** [HB 1813](#) by Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) authorizes OWRB to enter into memorandums of understanding or contracts with ORWA, or with Oklahoma-based not-for-profit entities that are governed by community water and wastewater systems, and that have an established and proven history of the relevant expertise necessary, to provide technical assistance and training for board members and operators in an effort to provide uninterrupted assistance and services to water and wastewater systems currently providing functioning water and wastewater services to residents in rural areas.

The bill passed the House Energy Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the House Energy and Natural Resources Oversight Committee.

**Law Enforcement/Display of Lights/Eluding Officer:** [HB 1993](#) by Rep. Tim Turner (R-Kinta) clarifies that the display of lights from a peace officer must not be ignored when a peace officer is trying to stop an individual.

The bill passed the House Public Safety Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 0. The bill moves to the House Judiciary and Public Safety Oversight Committee.

**Homeless Camp/School Property:** [HB 2150](#) by Rep. Rob Hall (R-Tulsa) prohibits an unauthorized camp upon a street, sidewalk, or other public or private

property within five hundred (500) feet of public school or private school property. Any person who violates this law and refuses to vacate the unauthorized camp upon command of a law enforcement officer, upon conviction, is guilty of a misdemeanor by a fine not to exceed Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), or imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed thirty (30) days or both.

The bill was [amended](#) and passed the House Judiciary – Criminal Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 4 to 1. The bill moves to the House Judiciary and Public Safety Oversight Committee.

**Terry Peach Water Restoration Act:** [HB 2162](#) by Rep. Mike Dobrinski (R-Kingfisher) expands the definition of "harmful woody species" to include *Juniperus pinchotii* (Redberry juniper), *Juniper ashei* (ashe juniper), and *Prosopis glandulosa* (honey mesquite) as those that need to be eradicated.

The bill passed the House Agriculture Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 1. The bill moves to the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

**Open Records Act/Public Access Counselor/AG's Office:** [HB 2163](#) by Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) creates in the Attorney General's office a Public Access Counselor Unit. Any person whose request to inspect or copy a public record is denied by a public body, except the Legislature and committees, commissions, and agencies thereof, may file a request for review with the Public Access Counselor not later than thirty (30) days after the date of the final denial. The request for review must be in writing, signed by the requester, and include: a copy of the request for access to records and any response from the public body. A person who makes the request for commercial purposes may not file a request for review. If the public body treats the request for review as a commercial purpose, the individual may file a request with the Public Access Counselor to review whether the public body properly determined the request. The Public Access Counselor must forward a copy of the request for the public body to review within seven (7) business days after receipt and specify the records or other documents that the public body shall furnish to facilitate the review. If the public body fails to respond, the AG may issue a subpoena to any

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person or public body having knowledge of or records pertaining to a request for review of a denial of access to records. There is a process for extending the time by the Public Access Counselor with notification to the requester and public body. The opinion shall be binding upon both the requester and the public body. Upon receipt of the binding opinion, the public body must either take the necessary action to comply or file suit in the proper district court. The AG may also issue advisory opinions to public bodies regarding compliance with this act.

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

**Open Meeting/Private Residence:** [HB 2209](#) by Rep. Mike Lay (R-Jenks) allows members of a public body to participate in a meeting from a private residence via videoconference or teleconference and shall not be required to disclose the address of the private residence on the meeting notice or agenda, provided the following conditions are met: member identifies the location as a "private residence"; videoconference or teleconference technology allows the public to see and hear the member during the meeting; and member's participation from the private residence does not restrict or limit public access to the meeting or the member's contribution to the meeting. It does not apply when the public body holds a meeting entirely or primarily at a member's private residence.

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

**Workers' Compensation/Vocational & Rehabilitation Training:** [HB 2217](#) by Rep. Jared Deck (D-Norman) provides payment of benefits during certain retraining or job placement period. This period may be extended for an additional fifty-two (52) weeks or portion thereof by special order of the Commission, after affording the interested parties an opportunity to be heard. During the period when an employee is active and in good faith being evaluated or participating in a retraining or job placement program with the purpose and

intention to return the employee to substantial gainful employment and being monitored by a qualified vocational expert from the Commission IME list. Temporary total disability benefits are not to exceed fifty-two (52) weeks for the duration the employee is actively being evaluated for and/or participating in the program. If the employee is noncompliant, abandons participation in vocational rehabilitation services, or if benefits under this subsection have been suspended under this paragraph at least two times, the benefits shall be permanently terminated by order of the Commission.

The bill passed the House Judiciary - Civil Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the House Judiciary and Public Safety Committee.

**Public Nuisances:** [HB 2622](#) by Rep. Erick Harris (R-Edmond) makes the repeated use of any real property or structure to commit activities of unlawful drug distribution, prostitution, or human and/or sex trafficking as a public nuisance.

The bill passed the House Judiciary - Civil Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the House Judiciary and Public Safety Committee.

**Law Enforcement/Sexual Assault Victims/Information:** [HB 2705](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) directs law enforcement agencies to inform sexual assault victims of the status of evidence in his or her case. The law enforcement agency may require the request to be in writing. The bill prohibits the disclosure of evidence, information or results that would impede or compromise an ongoing criminal investigation from being included.

The bill passed the House Judiciary - Criminal Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 0. The bill moves to the House Judiciary and Public Safety Oversight Committee.

**Alcoholic Beverages:** [HB 2799](#) by Rep. T.J. Marti (R-Broken Arrow) eliminates the restriction prohibiting retail spirits licensees from selling spirits in cities or towns with populations under two hundred (200).

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The bill passed the House Alcohol, Tobacco and Controlled Substances Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 5 to 2. The bill moves to the House Health and Human Services Oversight Committee.

### NEXT WEEK AT THE CAPITOL

**Monday, February 10, 2025**

#### **Senate Aeronautics & Transportation Committee 10:00 a.m., Room 535**

**Utility Vehicles:** [SB 20](#) by Sen. Brian Guthrie (R-Bixby) allows for street-legal utility vehicles that are registered as a motor vehicle to travel on U.S. highways, but with a restriction to U.S. highways that post speed limits to fifty (50) miles per hour or less.

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

**Water/Terry Peach Water Restoration Act:** [SB 263](#) by Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) adds species to the "Harmful woody species" list. The bill creates a statewide pilot program to remove or eradicate harmful woody species in watersheds administered by the Conservation Commission. The bill also adds recognized governmental entities and not-for-profit organizations to be available to utilize funds for the eradication of the harmful woody species. The expansion includes project areas above Lake Overholser and the North Fork Red River into Lugert-Altus Reservoir.

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

**Sales Tax Exemption/Farming:** [HB 1378](#) by Rep. Eddy Dempsey (R-Valliant) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) adds "farming" and "farm" to include the production of timber, seedling production, and forestry management.

**Fighting Chance for Firefighters Act:** [HB 2011](#) by Rep. Daniel Pae (R-Lawton) and Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) creates the Fighting Chance for Firefighters Act which allows cancer centers in Oklahoma to carry out the purposes and functions of the act to cover the costs of occupational cancer screenings. For taxable years beginning on or after

January 1, 2026, there will be allowed as a credit against Oklahoma Income Tax equal to the amount of unreimbursed expense at the maximum of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) a tax year incurred by a firefighter for the costs of medical procedures to detect any form of cancer. This credit may carry over to each of the five subsequent income tax years. The total amount of credits authorized to offset tax will be limited to One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000.00). The bill allows the benefits of the Oklahoma Employees Insurance and Benefits Plans to employees of municipal and county fire departments and local government entities in Oklahoma.

**Sales Tax Rebate/Local Music Incentive Act:** [HB 2218](#) by Rep. Jared Deck (D-Norman) authorizes an eligible venue entity to receive a rebate of either a sales tax or mixed beverage gross receipts tax or both collected by or remitted by an entity at which the eligible performance occurs. The bill establishes procedures for the rebate to be received.

**OK Main Street Grant Program Revolving Fund:** [HB 2407](#) by Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) creates the Oklahoma Main Street Grant Program Revolving Fund in the Department of Commerce. In order to qualify for the grant, the Main Street applying shall be required to: be a designated and qualified Main Street by the Oklahoma Main Street Program; and shall contract with Commerce, upon receiving the grant, which will require submission of proof that the Main Street is still a designated Main Street. If Main Street is no longer designated Main Street, they will be removed from any opportunities to receive grants.

#### **House A&B Sub: Transportation 10:30 a.m., Room 4s5**

**ODOT/Municipal Streets:** [HB 1125](#) by Rep. Denise Crosswhite-Hader (R-Piedmont) provides ODOT when they are undertaking a project to bear the full cost of installing, repairing, replacing, or otherwise maintaining curbs, inlets and inlet structures as part of the project scope. ODOT shall amend all existing administrative rules that exclude the installation, repair, replacement, or otherwise maintenance curbs in the scope of such projects. The Commission shall not pay the cost of mowing the right-of-way

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drainage systems and facilities outside the back of curb on any such streets.

**Senate Revenue & Taxation Committee**  
**1:30 p.m., Room 230**

**Sales Tax Exemption/Nonprofit Services/Child Abuse:** [SB 49](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) creates a new sales tax exemption for nonprofit organizations whose principal function is to prevent child abuse and neglect through education, treatment and advocacy and operates a facility that offers comprehensive community-based services for abused or neglected children from birth through eighteen (18) years of age. To be eligible for the exemption, the organization shall provide the following to the OTC: articles of incorporation; organizational by-laws; and a notarized letter from the president or chairman stating the services provided by the organization.

**Sales Tax Exemption/Firearm Safety Devices:** [SB 50](#) by Sen. JoAnna Dossett (D-Tulsa) creates a sales tax exemption for the sales of firearm safety devices and gun safety devices. The bill defines "firearm safety device" and "gun safety device".

**Sales Tax Exemption/Nonprofits/School Supplies and Clothing/Contractors:** [SB 59](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) and Rep. Suzanne Schreiber (D-Tulsa) creates a new sales tax exemption for nonprofit organizations and provides documentation to OTC showing the organization's principal purpose is to provide school supplies or articles of clothing for underserved students attending prekindergarten through twelfth grade at public schools in the state. The exemption shall include materials, supplies, and equipment used in the construction or improvement of buildings and other structures owned by the organization and operated in pursuit of the organization's primary and principal purpose. The exemption shall apply to sales to the organization and to sales to any person or subcontractor with whom the organization has duly entered into a construction contract.

**Sales Tax Exemption/OK Film and Music Office:** [SB 232](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) creates a new sales tax exemption for the sales of tangible personal

property or services to a qualified media production facility, to be used or consumed in connection with the construction, renovation, improvement, or expansion of a media production facility within a qualified media production location. The bill sets a timeline that the exemption is effective on or after the date of this act during the exemption period for the qualified media production facility.

**Sales Tax Exemption/Nonprofit Museums/Sunset:** [SB 289](#) by Sen. Adam Pugh (R-Edmond) extends the sunset date for the sales tax for museums through December 31, 2027.

**Law Enforcement Legacy Fund:** [SB 302](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) creates the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Legacy Fund that shall consist of surplus monies and savings appropriated by the Legislature. The State Treasurer shall appoint a qualified investor to manage the Fund. The measure transfers any funds in excess of One Hundred Million Dollars (\$100,000,000.00) from the previous fiscal year or any additional whole increments of One Hundred Million Dollars (\$100,000,000.00) to the General Revenue Fund solely for the purpose of increasing law enforcement wages, made on January 1 of each subsequent calendar year. Investment managers must maintain a reasonable proportion of liquid assets in the Fund to facilitate any expected transfers.

**Health Care Sharing Ministry Tax Parity Act:** [SB 736](#) by Sen. Dusty Deever (R-Elgin) creates the Health Care Sharing Ministry Tax Parity Act. The measure provides for the establishment of health care sharing ministries (HSCM) to provide health care to a membership that shares a common set of ethical or religious beliefs, facilitates sharing of medical expenses between members, requires regular contributions from members, provides a quarterly report to members detailing the amount of needs shared and contributions received, conducts annual independent audits, and discloses that it is not an insurance company. HSCMs must be a nonprofit organization. Funds received from HSCM members to assist with medical expenses shall not be considered taxable income. The measure establishes penalties for providing false representation that the organization or individual is part of an HSCM.



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**House Elections & Ethics Government**  
**3:00 p.m., Room 5s2**

**Local Government Campaign Finance and Financial Disclosure Act:** [HB 2109](#) by Rep. Mike Osburn (R-Edmond) transfers the duties from the municipal clerk to the Ethics Commission.

**Tuesday, February 11, 2025**

**Senate Public Safety Committee**  
**9:00 a.m., Room 230**

**Smoking in Motor Vehicles/Minors:** [SB 23](#) by Sen. Brenda Stanley (R-Midwest City) makes it unlawful for any person to knowingly smoke tobacco, marijuana or a vapor product in a vehicle with a minor present. Any person who violates this law shall be assessed a fine not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) nor more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) to be deposited in the Tobacco Prevention & Cessation Revolving Fund.

**OSBI/Mass Casualty Revolving Fund:** [SB 37](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) defines "mass casualty" to mean an incident that results in no less than three (3) injured individuals; requires more emergency response than typically available in the jurisdiction; and results in a sudden and timely surge of injured individuals in need of emergency services. OSBI may respond to an incident without a request from a local law enforcement agency and coordinate with local law enforcement agencies who are responding to the event. The bill also creates a Mass Casualty Revolving Fund.

**OSBI/Background Checks:** [SB 81](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) and Rep. Mark Tedford (R-Tulsa) modifies the payment process for various background checks conducted by the OSBI. The bill authorizes the OSBI to promulgate rules for each payment method instead of specifying each payment method in statute. The bill repeals Sections 150.29 and 150.30 of Title 74.

**Assault & Battery/Law Enforcement Officers:** [SB 369](#) by Sen. Kelly Hines (R-OKC) and Rep. John George (R-Newalla) modifies the provisions on special aggravated assault and battery against law enforcement officers to include strangulation.

**Firearms/Hotels:** [SB 372](#) by Sen. Kelly Hines (R-OKC) allows a person to carry a concealed or unconcealed firearm in any state-owned hotel, cabin or lodge.

**DOC Facilities/Biological Designation:** [SB 418](#) by Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) requires a covered entity under the DOC to designate each multi-occupancy restroom, changing room, and sleeping quarters for the exclusive use of either females or males. This section of law does not apply to individuals to enter a restroom, changing room, or sleeping quarters designated for members of opposite sex in following circumstances: performance of custodial services or maintenance, rendering of medical or law enforcement assistance, or provision of services or aid during a natural disaster or declared emergency, or when necessary to prevent a serious threat to order and safety. DOC is required to promulgate rules to administer this law. An individual encounters a person of the opposite sex in such a restroom or changing room has a private cause of action for declaratory and injunctive relief against the covered entity. Any civil action brought against a covered entity shall be initiated within two (2) years after the violation occurred. Attorney fees and court costs may be recovered from the entity.

**Law Enforcement/Bus Passenger Safety Act:** [SB 562](#) by Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Wilson) modifies the Bus Passenger Safety Act. It defines "rolling stock vehicles" to include buses, vans, cars, railcars, locomotives, trolley cars, ferry boats and vehicles used for support services. It also defines "transit worker" to mean any employee, contractor, or volunteer work on behalf of a transit agency. The bill makes it a crime to force violence, threat of force violence, size or exercise control of any rolling stock vehicle. In addition, no person shall intimidate, threaten, assault or batter any driver, attendant, guard, transit worker, or passenger or any rolling stock vehicle. The bill lays out the penalties.

**Assault & Battery/Railroad Workers:** [SB 566](#) by Sen. Aaron Reinhardt (R-Jenks) creates a misdemeanor offense for any person who commits any assault, battery, or assault and battery upon the person of a railroad or railway worker or any personnel in connection with the railroads. Upon

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conviction, imprisonment in a county jail not to exceed one (1) year, by a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or both.

**(OML Priority) Firearms/Municipal Carry:** [SB 628](#) by Sen. Christi Gillespie (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Derrick Hildebrant (R-Catoosa) allows municipalities to authorize certain employees or public officials of the municipality, municipal public trust, or municipal authority who possess a valid handgun license and who have successfully completed any additional training or requirements as established by ordinance or resolution to carry a concealed handgun when acting in the course and scope of employment. Firearms may not be present in a firearm-prohibited location. Firearm prohibited location is defined as any room, location or other place on municipally owned, leased or maintained property designated as a firearm-prohibited location by the municipal government and any police department, courthouse, courtroom, prison, jail, detention facility, or any facility used to process, hold, or house arrested persons, prisoners, or persons alleged to be delinquent or adjudicated delinquent. Nothing shall be construed to allow municipal employees to carry a firearm as a duty or function of their employment. A municipality may authorize the public display of a firearm in a public building subject to policies established by the municipality, municipal public trust, or municipal authority.

**Firearms/Shooting into Buildings:** [SB 631](#) by Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) adds shooting into a dwelling or a building used for public or business purposes, as provided for in Section 1289.17A of this title or any attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation thereof to the required sentence of eighty-five percent of imprisonment.

**Emergency Management/Governor's Duties:** [SB 672](#) by Sen. Julie McIntosh (R-Porter) prohibits the Governor from closing or forcing to close any business without documented scientific evidence that the nature of a particular business actually contributes to the direct spreading of disease relating to the pandemic. The Governor is required to give notice and hear any business determined to be nonessential or detrimental to the health and safety of citizens during a pandemic before issuing

an executive order against keeping the business open.

**Law Enforcement/Larceny/Shopping Carts:** [SB 748](#) by Sen. Jack Stewart (R-Yukon) establishes a crime for any person who commits larceny of a shopping cart from a retail or wholesale establishment to be punished by a fine of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or thirty (30) hours of community service per violation.

**Law Enforcement/Driving Under Influence:** [SB 786](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) prohibits a person from consuming medical marijuana, or consuming secondhand medical marijuana smoke due to another person's consumption of medical marijuana from operating a motor vehicle on a public highway. A person operating a motor vehicle on a public highway shall not possess any open container that contains medical marijuana in the passenger seat of the vehicle.

**Senate Retirement & Government Resources  
Committee  
10:00 a.m., Room 4s9**

**Purchase Cards:** [SB 900](#) by Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) allows any political subdivision participating in the state purchase card program to issue a solicitation for the acquisition of a purchase card.

**House General Government Committee  
10:30 a.m., Room 206**

**Preemption/Local Government Agreements:** [HB 1068](#) by Rep. Tom Gann (R-Inola) prohibits state governmental entities or public trusts from entering into any agreement with a person, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, corporation, limited liability company, trust, or other legal entity that would prohibit the state governmental entity to make payment or confer value upon the entity using an incentive, tax credit, grant or similar benefit offered to such entity. A state governmental entity or a public trust is not required to disclose any proprietary information related to profit margins on goods or services sold by the for-profit business.

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**Local Development Act/Incentive or Increment Districts:** [HB 1069](#) by Rep. Tom Gann (R-Inola) amends the definition of "reinvestment area" by removing blight in place of underdeveloped areas. The bill requires the approval of the proposed district or plan to be approved by a majority of the voters of the applicable jurisdiction. If the district, plan or project is sponsored by a city or town, the question of the district, plan or project shall be submitted to a vote of the eligible voters of the applicable city or town. Plans that do not receive the majority of the votes shall not be created. Any local taxing jurisdiction that does not separately approve the formation of an increment district shall not be included in the district and its tax revenues shall not be apportioned for use by an increment district. The same goes for counties as well. The bill prohibits any member of a review committee from receiving anything of value from the formation of the district. It also requires members of the committee to complete at least twelve (12) hours of instruction, which includes the Local Development Act, applicable concepts related to the utilization of sales tax revenue or other locally authorized revenues, including ad valorem tax revenue, in either an incentive district or an increment district. The bill establishes criteria that the review committee must be provided before it makes any recommendation to the governing body. The review committee shall also prepare or have a qualified third party prepare an economic impact study which shall include the effect of any apportioned tax revenues on local taxing jurisdictions, the economic effects likely to occur as a result of the completion of the project and such other information as the review committee may determine to be relevant.

**Open Records/Email Distribution Systems:** [HB 1409](#) by Rep. Denise Crosswhite-Hader (R-Piedmont) authorizes public bodies to require people participating in the email distribution system to annually confirm the request to be included in the system. If the person does not confirm the request, public bodies may remove that person from the email distribution system. Nothing prohibits an individual from participating in an email distribution system from which that individual was previously removed.

**Law Enforcement/Dual Office Holding:** [HB 2083](#) by Rep. Jason Blair (R-Moore) provides exemptions for dual office holding restrictions for municipal law enforcement officers, deputy sheriffs and campus law enforcement officers who serve in an elected and appointed position of a municipality.

**Open Records Response:** [HB 2095](#) by Rep. Annie Menz (D-Norman) requires public bodies to respond to a records request within thirty (30) business days of receipt.

**Senate Local & County Government Committee  
2:30 p.m., Room 230**

**Preemption/Parking:** [SB 347](#) by Sen. Carri Hicks (D-OKC) prohibits a governing body from implementing minimum parking requirements.

**Building Permits/County Assessors:** [SB 468](#) by Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Wilson) requires a municipality with a population of more than four hundred fifty thousand (450,000) to transmit a copy of any building permit issued within its boundaries to the county assessor no later than thirty (30) days after the issuance. A municipality shall provide the county assessor with electronic copies of building permits, where available and feasible.

**Municipal Bond or Tax Elections:** [SB 538](#) by Sen. Dusty Deever (R-Elgin) modifies dates of when special elections can be held in a municipality. For purposes of submitting to the registered voters of the municipality the question of issuing municipal bonds or of any tax, the governing body may, by resolution or ordinance, authorize the mayor to call a special election on a state or federal election day in November in an odd- or even-numbered year. The bill also impacts elections called by the board of education to be held on a state or federal election day in November in an odd- or even-numbered year.

**Municipal Parking Benefit District Act:** [SB 651](#) by Sen. Brenda Stanley (R-MWC) permits the governing body of any municipality in this state or more parking benefit districts for the purpose of permitting advisory committees to provide recommendations to and bring issues to the attention of the municipality regarding the

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maintenance of the districts. The bill sets out the process for creating the municipal parking district. Within ten (10) nor more than thirty (30) days of the meeting to create the district, the municipal clerk shall mail the parcels of land to be included in the district. Business owners and residents of the proposed district may file a protest questioning the propriety and advisability of establishing the parking benefit authorized to amend the proposal as needed to correct mistakes as well as add or remove plots. Each district shall have an advisory committee to provide input and make recommendations to the municipality on issues meter program in the parking benefit district. The committee shall be comprised of not less than three (3) and no more than seven (7) members, who shall not receive compensation. Municipal officials may sit on the members. Municipalities are authorized to hold in a special fund all revenue received by the municipality from the parking meter program within such a district.

**Construction Contractors/Retainage:** [SB 739](#) by Sen. Jack Stewart (R-Yukon) prohibits construction contracts or subcontractors subject to a bond from withholding retainage.

**Law Enforcement/Dual Office Holding:** [SB 1091](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) allows any law enforcement officer, including a campus police officer, who is elected as a member of a governing board of a town, municipality, or county that is outside of the town, municipality or county where the person serves as a law enforcement officer to serve in both offices.

### ADVOCATING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

This year, several bills have been filed that will have a negative impact on our members, which means we need YOU more than ever. Here are a few tips to help you help us.

**Stay vigilant, stay informed.** Let OML be your clearing house for legislative information and news. OML sends out many GRIP Alerts to our members to let you know when a pressing issue needs your attention. Pay attention to these emails, as we send them for your benefit. You can also read any version

of any bill on the Legislature's website at [oklegislature.gov](http://oklegislature.gov).

**Be active.** If you can't be at the Capitol, call, text, and email your legislators. They want to hear from you!

**Act swiftly.** Often times, bills heard in committee or on the floor can come and go very quickly. This means that you have a small window to communicate with your legislators. Same day action is paramount.

**Send us your comments.** Is a particular issue or bill important to your community? Tell us about it. We also frequently send out bills and ask for comments from you for guidance. These comments remain completely in-house, so don't be afraid to speak up. Your words are safe with us!

**Build a coalition.** Never has the phrase "strength in numbers" been more relevant. Discuss these issues with community leaders and surrounding municipalities. Collaboration is invaluable in the legislative process.

**Build a relationship with your legislators.** Legislators appreciate hearing from their constituents back home. They're also usually happy to give their phone numbers and email addresses out to remain in contact with you.

**Say THANK YOU!** This one is a no brainer. Never underestimate the power of saying thank you.