

04-25

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FIRST DEADLINE - SHORTENS THE LISTS

Due to the weather last week, the House moved their first deadline for House bills to make it out of policy committees or appropriations subcommittees to this week. Our tracking list has gotten somewhat smaller, but next week marks the first big deadline. March 6 is the deadline for bills to be heard in committee. Several bills that OML was tracking have been paused for this legislative session but can be brought up next year. In the meantime, OML was busy getting two of our priority bills through the first hurdle.

(OML Priority) Municipal Ordinance & County Libraries: [SB 354](#) by Sen. Brian Guthrie (R-Jenks) and Rep. Jason Blair (R-Moore) removes the requirement that cities must deposit one copy of the permanent volume and each biennial supplement of penal ordinances to its local law library.

The bill passed the Senate Local & County Government Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

(OML Priority) Open Records Reform: [SB 535](#) by Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) and Rep. Daniel Pae (R-Lawton) modifies provisions related to the Open Records Act, adjusting notice, transparency, fee collection and privacy standards.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 1. The bill moves to the full Senate.

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

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ANNEXATION THREAT HARMS CITIES

HB 1166 by Rep. Mike Kelley (R-Jenks) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) removes the provision that allows municipalities to annex territory without the written consent of a majority of property owners of the proposed territory. The bill provides that the required municipal services extension plan be included in both the public notice published in the newspaper and the notice mailed to all owners of proposed territory to be annexed. If the extension of municipal services is not complete within one hundred twenty (120) months from the date of annexation, the territory is to be immediately detached.

The bill passed the House County & Municipal Government Committee on February 19th and awaits a hearing in the House Government Oversight Committee.

We met with Rep. Kelley this week to provide language that would still allow for annexation with further protection for land owners.

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 & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 2. The bill moves to the full House.

Elections/Voter ID: HB 1005 by Rep. Jim Olsen (R-Roland) and Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) requires each person appearing to vote in any election conducted after January 1, 2027, to present proof of identity. Service Oklahoma must develop and make available a photo identification card that meets the requirements to serve as proof of identity for voters. The photo id cards shall be provided free of charge by Service Oklahoma to any registered voter. The CEO of Service Oklahoma shall consult with the Secretary of the State Election Board to develop the photo identification card. The requirement for proof

of identification shall apply to each person appearing to vote at an in-person absentee voting site. The Secretary of Election Board may promulgate rules or procedures to implement this law.

The bill passed the House Appropriations Committee with the title stricken on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 25 to 6. The bill moves to the full House.

Food Truck Freedom Act: HB 1076 by Rep. Derrick Hildebrant (R-Catoosa) and Sen. Christi Gillespie (R-Broken Arrow) authorizes a mobile food vendor with a food establishment license to operate in this state. The mobile food vendor must follow all state and local laws and regulations governing operations in the jurisdiction where the vendor is operating that are not in conflict with this act. A mobile food vendor must provide a copy of its state license to a local authority for recognition by the local authority before operating in the local jurisdiction. A local jurisdiction shall also issue a license or permit as long as it does not impose additional requirements that conflict with this act. The bill allows these vendors to operate in certain locations. The State Commissioner of Health may promulgate rules to enforce this section of law. The bill also allows local authorities to regulate mobile food vendors when it comes to noise, parking, reporting foodborne illnesses, and adopting and enforcing regulations that address the public health or safety risks. It does prohibit local authorities from several mobile food vendor operations. The bill adds definitions for mobile food establishment, mobile pushcart, mobile retail food establishment, mobile food vendor, mobile food vending, food vending vehicle, local authority, public property, temporary mass gathering, and nonobstructive spot inspection. If a mobile food vendor seeks to operate in a county that is governed by a city-county health department, they shall obtain a food establishment from the local authority.

The bill passed the House Public Health Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 0. The bill moves to the House Health & Human Services Oversight Committee.

Firearms/Municipal Carry: [HB 1095](#) by Rep. Derrick Hildebrant (R-Catoosa) and Sen. Christi Gillespie (R-Broken Arrow) authorizes that the governing body of a city or town may authorize the concealed carry of handguns into any building, or office space, except those listed in paragraph 2 of this subsection, which is owned or leased by a city or town. Elected officials of a municipality, as well as municipal employees approved by the city council, who are in possession of a valid handgun license issued pursuant to the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act to carry a concealed handgun when acting in the performance of their duties. Firearms may not be carried into a courtroom or other areas specifically designated by ordinance or resolution as firearm-prohibited location. Nothing in this law requires elected officials or designated employees of the municipality to carry a firearm as a condition of employment or service with the municipality.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 3. The bill moves to the full House.

Firearms/School Property: [HB 1139](#) by Rep. Denise Crosswhite-Hader (R-Piedmont) and Sen. Kendal Sacchieri (R-Blanchard) removes the authorization of students to transport and the storage of firearms and weapons on school property.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 2. The bill moves to the full House.

Law Enforcement/Background Investigations: [HB 1190](#) by Rep. Rick West (R-Heavener) and Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) modifies background investigation requirements by striking the language removing resident aliens. The bill prohibits the certification of permanent resident alien; however, any person who has been trained and certified by CLEET and is actively employed as a full-time peace officer as of November 1, 2025, shall not be subject to the prohibition.

The bill passed the House Public Safety Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 5 to 1. The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 3. The bill moves to the full House.

Municipal Utilities/Revenue Restrictions: [HB 1220](#) by Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) and Sen. Lisa Standridge (R-Norman) prohibits municipalities from imposing any franchise fees or local sales, use or any other taxes on the securitized revenue stream on bonds or other obligations issued by the Oklahoma Development Finance Authority associated with Winter Storm Uri from February 2021.

The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 15 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

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.

The bill passed the House on Monday by a [vote](#) of 89 to 6. The bill moves to the Senate.

REAP Grants: [HB 1438](#) by Rep. Kenton Patzkowsky (R-Balko) and Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) raises the cap on certain Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) grants administered by OWRB from One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) to Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000.00).

The bill passed the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 31 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Board of Adjustments: [HB 1496](#) by Rep. Rob Hall (R-Tulsa) permits any municipality where the council does not serve as the board of adjustment, the governing body may, except as otherwise provided by charter, provide that the decisions of the board on matters within its jurisdiction are final subject to judicial review or are final subject to appeal to the council and the right of later judicial review or are advisory to the council.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Insurance/Public Adjusters: [HB 1501](#) by Rep. Mark Chapman (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Aaron Reinhardt (R-Jenks) limits the amount a public insurance adjuster can receive not to exceed ten percent (10%) of the amount of the insurance settlement when adjusting for entities subject to GTCA.

The bill passed the House Insurance Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 0. The bill moves to the House Commerce & Economic Development Oversight Committee.

Oklahoma Route 66 Commission: [HB 1571](#) by Rep. Mark Lawson (R-Sapulpa) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) removes the expiration date of the Oklahoma Route 66 Commission.

The bill passed the House Commerce & Economic Development Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 14 to 1. The bill passed the House on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 80 to 11. The bill moves to the Senate.

Conservation Commission/Spring Creek Watershed Study: [HB 1588](#) by Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) and Sen. Tom Woods (R-Westville) creates the Spring Creek Watershed Study to be used to direct implementation of voluntary, incentive-based conservation practices by the Conservation Commission in partnership with other local, state, and federal agencies and subject to availability of resources, in the Spring Creek watershed to protect and improve the aquatic habitat and water quality in the area.

The bill passed the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 29 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

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 & Public Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 2. The bill moves to the full House.

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 may employ, either directly or through memorandums of understanding or cross-deputization agreements, people to serve as Oklahoma Organized Retail Crime Task Force officers whose primary responsibility is to prevent, respond to, investigate and prosecute criminal violations.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 3. The bill moves to the full House.

Law Enforcement/Misconduct Disputes: [HB 1593](#) by Rep. John George (R-Newalla) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) does not allow for a peace officer to be disqualified as a witness in a criminal proceeding on the basis of an allegation of misconduct by the officer that has not been finally adjudicated or sustained. An allegation of misconduct is not considered to be finally adjudicated as sustained if the allegation is under appeal through the administrative process or judicial proceeding. The bill directs the AG to refer petitions to an administrative law judge. If the administrative law judge finds the allegations are not supported by a preponderance of the evidence, the law enforcement agency and attorney may not

rely on the allegations for any purpose. Nothing shall prevent an attorney for the state from disclosing credibility issues of a witness to the court.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

Law Enforcement/Assault & Battery: [HB 1594](#) by Rep. John George (R-Newalla) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) expands the scope of assault and battery to include any kind of firearm, air gun, conductive energy weapon, or any other means of harm whatsoever.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Assault & Battery Punishment: [HB 1595](#) by Rep. John George (R-Newalla) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) increases the punishment from thirty (30) days to up to ninety (90) days in the county jail. The bill increases the punishment for assault and battery from ninety (90) days to up to six (6) months in the county jail.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 2. The bill moves to the full House.

Harassment/First Responders: [HB 1597](#) by Rep. John George (R-Newalla) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) makes it a crime for a person, after receiving a verbal warning not to approach a person who is a first responder, who is engaged in the lawful performance of a legal duty, to knowingly and willfully violate such warning and approach or remain within twenty-five (25) feet of the first responder with the intent to: impede, threaten, or harass the first responder. A person, upon conviction, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not to exceed one (1) year or by a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or both.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

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.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Unauthorized Camps: [HB 1764](#) by Rep. Dell Kerbs (R-Shawnee) and Sen. Warren Hamilton (R-McCurtain) prohibits any person from using 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 passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 4 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

Preemption/Flag Displays: [HB 1776](#) by Rep. Brian Hill (R-Yukon) and Sen. Adam Pugh (R-Edmond) establishes that no state or local governmental entity is to prohibit a person from displaying, whether by vehicle, motorcycle, or by holding, the United States of America flag or the Oklahoma State flag on such state or local governmental entity's property. Flags must be displayed in accordance with accepted standards for proper display and cannot be altered or defaced.

The bill passed the House General Government Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 1. The bill moves to the House Government Oversight Committee.

Fire Department/Fire Sites: [HB 1809](#) by Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) and Sen. Darcy Jech (R-Kingfisher) requires any fire department operating in the State of Oklahoma, upon concluding extinguishment efforts at the scene of a fire, to designate an individual to monitor the site for potential flare-ups and residual hot spots. The designee does not have to be a professional or volunteer firefighter; however, they must have the ability to conduct site inspections at intervals not exceeding one (1) hour for a minimum period of

twelve (12) hours following the fire's extinguishment. The fire department shall have a firefighter on sight until a designee is appointed.

The bill was [amended](#), discussed and then laid over in the House Public Safety Committee on Monday. It will remain property of the Committee for next year.

OWRB/MOU: [HB 1813](#) by Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) and Sen. Darcy Jech (R-Kingfisher) 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 & Natural Resources Oversight Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Conservation Commission: [HB 1815](#) by Rep. Jim Grego (R-Wilburton) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) modifies multiple definitions used in the Conservation District Act. The bill adds the power for the Conservation Commission to do to include entering into contracts and agreements and execute instruments deemed necessary, beneficial, or convenient by the Commission for the exercise of its legally conferred powers. This includes, but is not limited to, creating shared positions, administering statewide and locally emphasized programs, and exploring funding sources for conservation programs, practices, and pilot projects.

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

Fire Protection/Child Care Homes: [HB 1847](#) by Rep. Suzanne Schreiber (D-Tulsa) and Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) requires DHS to work with the State

Fire Marshal to develop guidelines that allow family childcare homes and large childcare homes to operate under the fire protection of the International Fire Code. No agency, municipality, county or other political subdivision shall place a stricter fire requirement than those outlined in the International Fire Code on the family and large childcare homes.

The bill passed the House General Government Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 0. The bill moves to the House Government Oversight Committee.

Law Enforcement/School Resource Officers/Sex Crimes: [HB 1995](#) by Rep. Tim Turner (R-Kinta) and Sen. Warren Hamilton (R-McCurtain) modifies the definition of sex crimes to designate school resource officers and security guard who are considered an employee of a school system.

The bill was [amended](#) and passed the House Education Oversight Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

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 to cover the costs of occupational cancer screenings. The bill authorizes the Office of Management and Enterprise Services to extend the benefits of the Oklahoma Employees Insurance and Benefits Plans to municipal and county fire departments.

The bill passed the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 33 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Playgrounds/Outdoor Advertising: [HB 2053](#) by Rep. Preston Stinson (R-Edmond) and Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) adds "playground" to places where outdoor signs are not to be located. "Playground" is defined as an outdoor space that contains permanently affixed playground equipment where the primary use is for children to play, excluding those spaces where the equipment is an accessory use to a commercial enterprise. Playground equipment located on privately owned residential properties should also not be considered.

The bill passed the House Commerce & Economic Development Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 15 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Fire Alarm Box Reporting/Repealer: [HB 2068](#) by Rep. Molly Jenkins (R-Coyle) and Sen. Micheal Bergstrom (R-Adair) repeals Section 1852 by Title 21 which required the fire chief or principal officer of every fire department shall post, or cause to be posted, a copy of this act at every fire alarm box or place specially designed for the reporting of fires in his jurisdiction.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

OUBCC/Training: [HB 2085](#) by Rep. Jason Blair (R-Moore) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) requires OUBCC to establish a regional continuing education for all residential and commercial construction industry personnel affected by the codes adopted by OUBCC, including, but not limited to, code officials, design professionals, and trade workers. There is no cost for the regional training for state licensed building code officials. A fee may be assessed to all participants other than state licensed code officials. The costs shall be limited to any cost directly associated with the training and shall be remitted to the State Treasury pursuant to the Oklahoma Uniform Building Code Commission Act. Each code official operating in this state on behalf of any state agency or municipal or county office may complete regional training and issue a certificate of completion. OUBCC shall also establish a workforce development process with the purpose of increasing the number of available code officials in Oklahoma. The workforce development applications, qualifications, and procedures shall be promulgated by rules of the Commission. OUBCC may establish forms and procedures to implement and administer the provisions of this section.

The bill passed the House Business Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 0. The bill moves to the House Commerce & Economic Development Oversight Committee.

Conservation Commission Cost-Share Program: [HB 2100](#) by Rep. Annie Menz (D-Norman) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) exempts private lands that are part of the Conservation Commission Program from eminent domain while such lands are a part of the program.

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

Newspapers: [HB 2166](#) by Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) defines a "periodical newspaper" and a "non-periodical permit newspaper". The non-periodical newspaper shall petition the district court in the jurisdiction in which the newspaper seeks to be authorized as a legal newspaper. The bill establishes the publication provisions by requiring all periodical and non-periodical permit newspapers to register and maintain registration of ownership with the Secretary of State; publish all legal notices on the newspaper website in a timely manner, if the newspaper maintains a website, in front of any paywall or paid access so the public may freely access the notices is qualified to be a legal newspaper in only one county in which the periodical permit newspaper original entry periodicals mail permit was applied for and held or in the county in which the non-periodical permit newspaper. Each legal newspaper must annually declare in the published statement of ownership, management and circulation on October 1 and shall continue to be authorized and cannot change such declaration until October 1 each year. If there is no legal newspaper in a county, a newspaper can be established by meeting the provisions of this section after a period of fifty-two (52) consecutive and uninterrupted weeks in a twelve (12) month period. Failure to issue or publish said newspaper for a period of twenty-one (21) consecutive days, beginning the day after the last publication due to an emergency declared by the state or federal government does not deem the newspaper a failure. A newspaper is permitted to publish fifty (50) of the preceding fifty-two (52) weeks over the immediately previous twelve (12) month period, and failure to issue or publish a newspaper under this schedule does not deem this as a failure.

The bill was [amended](#) and passed the House General Government Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 0. The bill moves to the House Government Oversight Committee.

Newspapers/Publication of Notices: [HB 2167](#) by Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) increases the fees that a newspaper can charge for publishing legal notices. For the first insertion of a notice, the per word fee is increased from fifteen cents (\$0.15) to twenty-two cents (\$0.22). For subsequent insertions, the fee is increased from fourteen cents (\$0.14) to twenty cents (\$0.20) per word. Elimination of space between words or numeric descriptions, or the use of hyphenation to combine words or numeric descriptions is prohibited. For all tabular matters such as graphics, maps, seals, signature blocks, forms and spreadsheets, the per line fee is increased from seventy cents (\$0.70) to One Dollar and ten cents (\$1.10) for the first insertion and from sixty-five cents (\$0.65) to One Dollar (\$1.00) for subsequent insertions. If the total calculated cost of words and lines is less than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00), then the notice charge will be rounded up to a flat Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00). Newspapers are also allowed to charge a notary fee for providing affidavits or proof of publication. The bill also requires newspapers to post the notice on their website and upload notices to a statewide database of public notices. However, failure to post a notice online due to a temporary outage or service interruption is considered a harmless error and the notice requirement is considered met as long as the notice has been published in the printed version of a newspaper. No deadline shall be set by the newspaper that is more than five (5) business days prior to the date of publication, excluding the date of publication, Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays in the State of Oklahoma. Upon request, the newspaper shall confirm receipt of the notice and notify the person or official in writing or by electronic means of the dates of the issue or issues in which the notice shall appear. The newspaper will confirm receipt of the notice and inform the person in writing or electronically about the publication dates. If there is a failure to publish the notice in the issue specified in the confirmation, the newspaper shall publish in the future issue at no charge. If the notice has multiple insertions, only the first notice omitted shall be required to run at no charge.

The bill passed the House General Government Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 1. The bill moves to the House Government Oversight Committee.

Open Meeting/Private Residence: [HB 2209](#) by Rep. Mike Lay (R-Jenks) and Sen. Brian Guthrie (R-Bixby) 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, or when two or more members are present at a member's private residence with full disclosure of the meeting location required under the Open Meetings Act. Public bodies shall ensure compliance with all other provisions of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, including transparency, accessibility, and notice requirements, when implementing this section.

The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 14 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

Texting While Driving: [HB 2263](#) by Rep. Nicole Miller (R-Edmond) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) prohibits the operator of a motor vehicle from using or holding of a hand-held electronic cellular device in school zone or work zone where workers are present. The provisions do not apply if a person is using the cellular telephone or electronic communication device: in conjunction with hands-free or voice-operated technology; or for the sole purpose of communicating with in an imminent emergency situation. Municipalities may enact and municipal police officers may enforce ordinances prohibiting and penalizing such conduct. The ordinances may not be more stringent than state law; and the total fine and court costs for municipal ordinance violations shall not exceed One Hundred

Dollars (\$100.00). DPS may not assess points for violation and law enforcement is prohibited from confiscating or extracting information from the cellular device without consent.

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

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 designated and qualified Main Street by the Oklahoma Main Street Program; and shall contract with Commerce, upon receiving the grant, which will require a submission of proof that the Main Street is still a designated Main Street and an invoice to Commerce to be paid no earlier than June 1 of any fiscal year in which there are funds to award the grant. If a Main Street is no longer designated a Main Street, they will be removed from any opportunities to receive grants.

The bill passed the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 32 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Mobile Food Trucks/Fire Marshal: [HB 2459](#) by Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) and Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) requires all mobile food preparation vehicles operating within Oklahoma prior to July 1, 2024, that are capable of producing smoke or grease-laden vapors shall be in compliance with the most current adopted code. With the exception of an automatic fire extinguishing system, this shall include, but not be limited to, those utilizing electric, liquid petroleum (LP) gas, compressed natural gas (CNG), or combination thereof for cooking, provided that portable fire extinguishers installed and maintained with the most current version of NFPA 10. All liquified petroleum gas shall be inspected by the Oklahoma Liquified Petroleum Gas Board or a certified contractor. The provisions in paragraph 1 of this subsection will expire on July 1, 2030, in which all mobile food preparation vehicles shall comply with the most current adopted codes set forth by the State. Mobile food preparation

vehicles are under the sole jurisdiction of the State Fire Marshal. Political subdivisions are not prevented from enforcing the political subdivision's event permits, operational fees, land use regulations, zoning, and other ordinances in relation to the operation of a mobile food preparation vehicle within the boundaries of said political subdivision. The rules promulgated shall have uniform force and effect and no city, town, county, political subdivision, or other agency shall enact or enforce any fire or life safety code related ordinances, rules, or other requirements for mobile food preparation.

The bill was passed the House Public Safety Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 4 to 3 . The bill moves to the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee.

Oklahoma Rural Hospitals Funding Assistance Grant Program Act of 2025: [HB 2754](#) by Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Altus) establishes the Oklahoma Rural Hospitals Funding Assistance Grant Program. As used in this Act, "adequate medical care facilities" means facilities that: would meet or meets the eligibility of a federally qualified critical access hospital; are located in a town or municipality with fewer than five thousand (5,000) population; and is owned by a public trust organized under the laws of this state or by a town or municipality of this state. The bill places the administration of the program by the State Department of Health.

The bill passed the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 30 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Oklahoma Volunteer Firefighter Support Program: [HB 2759](#) by Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Altus) and Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) creates a grant program to support training needs of volunteer firefighters in Oklahoma. The program shall assist volunteer firefighters to receive up to ten (10) hours in training a year from programs approved by OSDAFF. The State Fire Marshal is required to create an application system for volunteer firefighters to apply for grant assistance. The State Fire Marshal may promulgate rules for the grant program.

The bill passed the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 30 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Firearms/Pointing: [HB 2818](#) by Rep. Jay Steagall (R-Yukon) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) authorizes the pointing of firearms if acting in self-defense or in defense of real or private property located on any premises. Additionally, the bill removes provisions of law revoking a person's handgun license if convicted for pointing a firearm at another person. It also clarifies that a person does not need to possess a handgun license if he or she points a firearm at another person while acting in self-defense or while defending real or private property. There is no requirement to show a defensive display of a firearm or any other deadly weapon before the use of defensive force or the threat of defensive force by a person who is justified in the use or threatened use of defensive force. It shall be unlawful for any person to willfully and without lawful cause a firearm, knife, or any other deadly weapon, whether loaded or not, to point at any person or persons for the purpose of threatening or with intention of discharging the firearm or with any malice or for any purpose of injuring, either through physical injury or mental or emotional intimidation or for purposes whimsy, humor or prank or in anger or otherwise. The provisions of this law do not require the defensive display of a firearm or any other deadly weapon before the use of defensive force or the threat of defensive force by a person who is justified in the use or threatened use of defensive force. "Defensive display of a firearm" includes, but is not limited to: verbally informing another person that the person possesses or has available a firearm, exposes or displays a firearm in a manner that a reasonable person would understand was meant to protect the person against the use or attempted use by another or unlawful physical or deadly force, or placing the hand of the person on a firearm while the firearm is contained in a pocket, purse, holster, sling scabbard, case or other means of containment or transport.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 2. The bill moves to the full House.

Firefighters Pension/COLA Increase: [SB 8](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Rep. Stan May (R-Broken Arrow) provides a two percent (2%) increase in benefits for any member of the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension & Retirement System as of June 30, 2025. For those members who joined prior to January 1, 1981, shall have their pensions increased by one-half (1/2) of all increases or decreases which shall occur in the salary of a regular firefighter offset any increase provided in subsection A of this section. Effective July 1, 2026, any person receiving benefits shall receive an increase of two percent (2%).

The bill passed the Senate Retirement & Governmental Resources Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 1. The bill has been referred to the Legislative Actuary. It will be available to be heard next Session.

Second Amendment Financial Privacy Act: [SB 16](#) by Sen. Micheal Bergstrom (R-Adair) and Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) prohibits a government entity or official and agent or employee of a government entity to knowingly keep or cause to be kept any list, record, or registry of privately owned firearms or the owners of the firearms except for those records kept during the regular course of a criminal investigation or prosecution or as otherwise required by law. A "payment card network" and "covered entity" shall not require or incentivize the use of a merchant category code in a manner that distinguishes a firearm retailer from other retailers. The AG shall investigate reasonable allegations and, upon finding violation, provide written notice to the person, entity, or government entity alleged to have committed the violation. Those entities shall cease the violation within thirty (30) business days after receiving a written notice. The entities that fail to comply with an injunction shall be subject to a civil fine in an amount not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per violation.

The bill passed the Senate Business & Insurance Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 2. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Police Pension & Retirement/COLA Increase: [SB 21](#) by Sen. Warren Hamilton (R-McCurtain) increases the benefits by two percent (2%) for any person receiving benefits from Police Pension and Retirement System as of June 30, 2025, who has been retired for five (5) or more years and who continues to receive benefits on or after the effective date of this act. For any member of the System who joined prior to January 1, 1981, who shall have his or her pension increased or decreased by one-third (1/3) of any increase or decrease to the base salary of a regular police officer, any increase in benefits a person is eligible to receive after July 1, 2020, shall be offset by the increase in benefits.

The bill passed the Senate Retirement & Government Resources Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill has been referred to the Legislative Actuary. It will be available to be heard next Session.

Sales Tax Exemption/Nonprofits/Contractors & Subcontractors: [SB 44](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) creates a new a sales tax exemption for the sales of tangible personal property or services to nonprofit entities as well as to any contractor with whom the exempt entity has entered into a contract necessary for carrying out such contract and sales to any subcontractor to the contract. Any contractor or subcontractor making purchases necessary for carrying out the contract may present a copy of the exemption letter or card issued to the exempt entity by OTC and documentation indicating the contractual relationship between the contractor and the entity to the vendor and the vendor shall retain such documentation as certification that the purchase is exempt.

The bill was discussed and then laid over in the Senate Revenue & Taxation Committee on Monday.

Sales Tax Exemption/Nonprofit Services/Child Abuse: [SB 49](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) and Rep. Mark Lawson (R-Sapulpa) 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.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with the title stricken on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 22 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

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".

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 19 to 3. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Sewage Disposal Systems/DEQ: [SB 111](#) by Sen. Spencer Kern (R-Duncan) and Rep. Ty Burns (R-Morrison) requires any person engaging in the installation of more than one (1) individual sewage disposal system to obtain certification from DEQ.

The bill passed the Senate Business & Insurance Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Retirement Systems/COLAS: [SB 172](#) by Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) and Rep. Max Wolfley (R-OKC) authorizes Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System, Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges, Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System, Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System, Teacher's Retirement System of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System, and the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System boards to approve a two percent (2%) COLA when each respective System's funding ratio exceeds eighty percent (80%), provided the COLA does not cause the System to fall below the eighty percent (80%) funding ratio. In subsequent years the Boards may grant 2% COLAs if the funded ratio has increased 5% since the last COLA.

The bill passed the Senate Retirement & Government Resources Committee on Tuesday by a

[vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill has been referred to the Legislative Actuary. It will be available to be heard next Session.

GTCA/Increase Limits: [SB 213](#) by Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) increases the limits on liability from Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) for any claim out of a single act, accident, or occurrence. The bill sets a limit of Eighty-five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000.00) for nuisance claims arising out of a single act, accident, or occurrence in a county with a population of less than one hundred fifty thousand (150,000) and One Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$140,000.00) in a county with a population greater than one hundred fifty thousand (150,000). The limit is to Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) for a claimant as it relates to a claim from a loss arising from a single act. The minimum population requirement has also decreased from three hundred thousand (300,000) to one hundred fifty thousand (150,000) and the award limit for a claim is increased Three Hundred Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$375,000.00) as it relates to claims against the state or political subdivision subdivisions. The limit on claims against state hospitals has increased from to Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00). The bill limits the aggregate amount for any amount of claims arising from a single act to Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00). The bill also establishes a limit of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for claims against a public trust hospital and physician in a county with a population of less than seventy-five thousand (75,000).

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Sales Tax Exemption/Sales Tax Holiday Expansion: [SB 231](#) by Sen. Kristen Thompson (R-Edmond) and Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) expands the items listed for the sales tax holiday to include: 1) an article of clothing or footwear designed to be worn on or the human body; 2) sport or recreational equipment designed for use and worn in conjunction with an athletic or recreational activity that are not suitable for general use; 3) school supplies commonly used by a student in a course of

study; 4) school art supplies used by a student in a course of study for artwork; 5) school instructional materials which is written material used by a student in a course of study as a reference and to learn the subject being taught; and 6) school computer supplies commonly used by a student in a course of study in which a computer is used.

The bill passed the Senate Revenue & Taxation Committee with the title stricken on Monday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

OK Water Infrastructure Loan Program: [SB 265](#) by Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) and Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) creates the Oklahoma Water Infrastructure Loan Program to finance the development of water infrastructure improvements through low-interest loans and grants to municipalities, rural water districts and other eligible entities for approved water infrastructure projects, and provide technical assistance and administrative expense support for water infrastructure project implementation. Approved projects shall include, but not be limited to: the construction, repair and rehabilitation of water treatment plants, pipelines, and storage facilities; projects to ensure water quality and conservation; and other projects deemed necessary by OWRB to address current and future water needs. OWRB shall promulgate rules for project availability, application procedures, and fund disbursement. They must also submit an annual report to the Pro Tempore, Speaker and Governor of the projects financed, funds expensed, and other information deemed necessary for inclusion by OWRB and its staff. The bill limits the fund's annual revenue of not less than ten percent (10%) to be allocated to projects in rural or underserved communities, as determined by OWRB.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with the title stricken on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 19 to 2. The bill moves to the full Senate.

OK Housing Authorities Act: [SB 333](#) by Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) modifies the Oklahoma Housing Authorities Act. The bill broadens the definition of "area of operation" to include in the case of an authority of a city or of a county and only

for the purpose of construction or rehabilitation projects, beginning on the effective date of this act, anywhere within this state; provided such city or county housing authority has consulted with the city, county or counties and all other active and duly certified city and county housing authorities, if any, where the project or projects are located.

The bill passed the Senate Economic Development, Workforce & Tourism Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Firearms/Convicted Felons: [SB 381](#) by Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) and Rep. Jay Steagall (R-Yukon) allows any person who has previously been convicted of a nonviolent felony and has completed the entirety of the sentence imposed for the offense and has no additional misdemeanor or felony convictions or charges pending for a period of five (5) years since the completion of the sentence, to have restored the right to possess, carry, or transport any non-semi-automatic firearm, may apply for and carry a handgun, concealed or unconcealed as permitted by law. They shall have the right to perform any other duty that requires possession, carry or transportation of a firearm. However, a person could lose their rights upon conviction of a subsequent misdemeanor or felony. An individual convicted of a felony for domestic abuse, stalking, child endangerment, incest, indecent exposure, violations of protective order, or violations of the Sex Offender Registration Act are not eligible to have rights restored.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 5 to 3. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Firefighters Pension/Volunteers Benefit Increase: [SB 432](#) by Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) and Rep. Mike Kelley (R-Yukon) authorizes volunteer firefighters who retire on and after the effective date of this act to 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 was [amended](#) and passed the Senate Retirement & Government Resources Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Homeless Shelters/Zoning: [SB 484](#) by Sen. Lisa Standridge (R-Norman) and Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) in order to preserve public safety, the bill requires any entity proposing a zoning request to change or allow for the creation of a homeless shelter in a municipality with a population of less than three hundred thousand (300,000) to mail a written notice by regular first-class mail within thirty (30) days of the hearing to all real property owners at their last known address within one thousand (1,000) feet of the proposed location of the homeless shelter and shall be responsible for all costs incurred in mailing the notice. Notice shall also be posted on the affected property at least twenty (20) days prior to the hearing. The municipal governing body, municipal zoning commission or any other such body with zoning authority in the municipality, shall approve any proposed homeless shelter within three thousand (3,000) feet of any school, school property, public library, municipal park, child or adult day care facility, or prekindergarten facility provided they meet the population requirements. The bill provides for current homeless shelters to continue in such municipalities unless they have any change of use from a homeless shelter shall be subject to the location provisions in this act. The bill does not apply to domestic violence shelters or youth shelters.

The bill passed the Senate Local & County Government Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 3. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Open Meeting Act/Executive Session: [SB 491](#) by Sen. Brian Guthrie (R-Bixby) and Rep. Derrick Hildebrant (R-Catoosa) authorizes each public body to enter executive session to discuss the sale, lease, or acquisition of real property by the public body.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Public Finance/Proxy Voting: [SB 568](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) provides that all shares held directly or indirectly by or on behalf of a governmental entity and the participants and their beneficiaries shall only be voted upon in the pecuniary interest of plan participants and their

beneficiaries. No investment manager, fiduciary, or governmental entity shall adopt the practice of following the recommendations of a proxy adviser or other service provider unless such an adviser follows proxy voting guidelines that match the obligation of the governmental entity. The bill prohibits governmental entities from granting proxy voting authority to any person who is not a part of the governmental entity unless such a person follows proxy voting guidelines that match the obligation of the governmental entity.

The bill passed the Senate Revenue & Taxation Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Political Subdivision Opioid Abatement Grants: [SB 574](#) by Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Cynthia Roe (R-Lindsay) adds approved purpose to include any approved uses authorized by opioid-related settlement agreements in which the State of Oklahoma is a litigant or participant. The bill expands the definition of "political subdivision" to include the board of regents or board of trustees of a state educational institution which is a member of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. The Office of the AG may use not more than ten percent (10%) of the funds for statewide opioid abatement projects that constitute approved use under the Political Subdivision Opioid Abatement Grants Act. The Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Board shall approve all statewide opioid abatement projects. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, income and investment return on fund principal shall accrue to the fund.

The bill was [amended](#) and passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with the title stricken on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 21 to 1. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Law Enforcement/Jail Standards: [SB 595](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) creates the Oklahoma Jail Standards Act authorizing the State Commissioner of Health to promulgate rules to implement jail standards. The bill requires all detention facilities and lockup facilities to operate in compliance with the provisions of the bill. The bill also lists and describes

the standards to which all detention facilities shall operate under.

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

Police Pension & Retirement: [SB 609](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) allows a participant in the Police Pension and Retirement System to receive up to five (5) years credited service from state, county or municipal retirement system from a state other than Oklahoma.

The bill passed the Senate Retirement & Government Resources Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Medical Marijuana/Locations from Schools: [SB 640](#) by Pro Tempore Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) increases the location of any medical marijuana dispensary from one thousand (1,000) feet to three thousand (3,000) feet of any school entrance unless currently licensed prior to the effective date of this act.

The bill was [amended](#) and passed the Senate Business & Insurance Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Municipal Zoning/Planning Commission: [SB 647](#) by Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) while comprehensive plans may be utilized as a guide in the decision-making process, determinations shall be made in light of objective and relevant facts as well as by utilizing processes and requirements outlined in the municipal code. The notice and hearing are intended to provide members of the public with a right to be heard, explain how they think their interests are affected and bring to the attention of the governing body objective and relevant facts. However, decisions on land use applications shall not be based solely upon the presence, numbers or magnitude of opposition or protests in the absence of objectives and relevant facts. Municipal zoning decisions are deemed valid unless the challenging party proves the ordinance lacks a substantial relation to the public health, safety, or general welfare of the public or if a zoning

decision constitutes an unreasonable, arbitrary exercise of police power. If the governing body of a municipality does not serve as the board of adjustment, the body may provide that the decisions of the board on matters within its jurisdiction are final subject to judicial review or are final subject to appeal to the governing body. The measure specifies that land use applications shall not be based solely upon the presence, numbers, or magnitude of opposition or protests in the absence of objective and relevant facts. Municipal platting decisions are quasi-judicial in nature. The planning commission and the governing body of a municipality shall have reasonable discretion to determine the compliance of preliminary and final plats with the municipality's adopted subdivision regulations and all applicable codes and ordinances. If the planning commission and governing body determine the proposed plat is following the adopted subdivision code, and meets all applicable ordinances, and the governing body and planning commission accept any proposed dedications, if applicable, the plat shall be approved. Compliance with comprehensive plans shall not be a requirement for plat approval. In the case of a preliminary or final plat denial, if requested by the applicant at the meeting on the vote, the city attorney or contracted counsel shall identify on the record the basis for the denial, including at a minimum all of the applicable objective and relevant facts upon which the denial is based.

The bill passed the Senate Local & County Government Committee with the title stricken on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 2. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Special Election Dates: [SB 652](#) by Pro Tempore Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) and Rep. Mike Osburn (R-Edmond) modifies the dates for elections for any purpose can be held by any county, school district, technology center school district, municipality, fire protection district, or other political subdivision. The bill also authorizes the Governor to be limited to the dates in which a special election can be called. However, if a vacancy has occurred in the office of the US Representative, State Senator, or State Representative, or in the event of a declared national or state emergency that requires a special election, the Governor may also call a special election as

authorized by law on the following dates: second Tuesday in January in any year; first Tuesday of March in any year; first Tuesday of May in an odd-numbered year; second Tuesday of July in an odd-number year; second Tuesday of September in an odd-numbered year; first Tuesday of October in an odd-numbered year; and first Tuesday of December in any year. These dates apply to any election held after January 1, 2026.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 23 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Detachment/Intervening Strips: [SB 694](#) by Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Wilson) and Rep. Josh Cantrell (R-Kingston) provides that territory detached from a municipality under certain circumstances shall not be detached if: 1) the territory includes an intervening strip less than four (4) rods wide; 2) the territory is only separated from the corporate limits of a municipality by a railway right-of-way; 3) the territory is a highway right-of-way adjacent to or contiguous with a municipality; or 4) the territory includes properties that will be split in two, resulting in part of the property falling inside the corporate limits of a municipality and part of it falling outside the corporate limits of the municipality. The state, county, or any other political subdivision or governmental entity which will assume responsibility over the proposed detached territory may give written consent to the detachment.

The bill passed the Senate Local & County Government Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Employers/Adverse Actions: [SB 744](#) by Sen. Christi Gillespie (R-Broken Arrow) prohibits employers from taking certain adverse actions against employees for exercising their right to vote and their right to free speech.

The bill passed the Senate Economic Development, Workforce & Tourism Committee with the title stricken on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 1. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Law Enforcement/Canine Cooperative Grant

Program: [SB 750](#) by Sen. Jack Stewart (R-Yukon) authorizes DEQ to promulgate rules to create the Canine Cooperative Grant Program to provide financial assistance to state, county, and municipal law enforcement entities and fire departments for the acquisition and training of law enforcement canines. There is created a revolving fund for DEQ to be designated the Canine Cooperative Grant Program Revolving Fund. DEQ may retain five percent (5%) of the proceeds for the fund for administration of the program. The grants have the following annual limits: 1) not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) per county sheriff; 2) not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) per municipal police department; and 3) not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) per fire department for canine purchases or canine training.

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

Elections/Absentee Ballots/First Responders: [SB 814](#) by Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) and Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) authorizes a first responder or emergency worker or uniformed-service voter to receive an absentee ballot.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Firearm/Pointing: [SB 853](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Rep. Jay Stegall (R-Yukon) modifies language relating to the pointing of a firearm by persons acting in self-defense or to a home or business owner in defense of the owner's private property. The bill reduces the mandatory imprisonment of those guilty of such acts. The defensive display of a firearm or other deadly weapon by a person shall not be a criminal act if a reasonable person would believe that physical force is immediately necessary to protect himself, herself or another person against the use or attempted use of unlawful physical or deadly force by another or in defense of private property, located on any premises, owned, rented, leased or occupied by permission of the property owner. It does not apply to a person who intentionally provokes another

person to use unlawful physical or deadly force or uses a firearm during the commission of an unlawful act involving force or violence. The bill adds a definition for "defensive display" and "occupied premises".

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 2. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Emergency Management: [SB 862](#) by Sen. Jonathan Wingard (R-Ada) and Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) states that the constitutional role of government personnel, elected and employed, and all government agencies, during emergencies and disasters, is to aid residents of this state. It prohibits any action from being enacted or imposed that will subvert the constitutional rights of the residents of this state, even during times of emergency or disaster. Any government official who violates this law, upon conviction, is guilty of a felony punishable in DOC for not more than five (5) years, a fine not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), or both. They shall also be subject to removal from office or position; prohibition from holding any future elected or public office; a fine of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) per violation; and personal assumption of all liability where the government would otherwise be liable.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 2. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Firearm/Training: [SB 863](#) by Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) removes the requirement for any person applying for a handgun license to specify the firearms he or she is qualified to use as stated on the certificate of training or exemption of training.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 1. The bill moves to the full Senate.

DUI/Bail: [SB 882](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Rep. Emily Gise (R-OKC) prohibits any police officer or sheriff from the release of any person arrested for a second driving under the influence violation without the granting of bail by a magistrate, court, judge, or on-call judge. In

determining the bond and other conditions of release, the magistrate, judge, on-call judge or court shall consider any evidence that the person is in any manner dependent upon alcohol or a controlled dangerous substance or has a pattern of regular abuse of alcohol or the illegal use of any controlled dangerous substance. If the person is arrested for any crime provided in Section 11-902 of Title 42, the court shall consider the threat the person poses to public safety and shall present written findings on the bail amount. The bill removes language requiring officers to test any driver involved in an accident that resulted in a death or injury for substances.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 1. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Aerospace Infrastructure: [SB 920](#) by Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) and Rep. Nicole Miller (R-Edmond) defines "heliport", "vertiport", and "VTOL aircraft". The bill requires any person erecting or altering a structure within 1-nautical mile of a heliport or vertiport to secure a permit. The bill directs the clearinghouse within the Oklahoma Department of Aerospace to develop a statewide network of UAS and AAM detection systems as well as statewide or regional command, control, and radar systems.

The bill passed the Senate Aeronautics & Transportation Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Tobacco & Vapor Products/Minors: [SB 936](#) by Sen. JoAnna Dossett (D-Tulsa) modifies fines for employees and store owners who sell, give or furnish in any manner any tobacco product, nicotine product or vapor product to a person who is under twenty-one (21) years of age.

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

Law Enforcement/DUI/Bail Denial: [SB 981](#) by Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) authorizes the denial of bail for an individual who has previously been convicted with two (2) felonies for driving under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicating substances.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Water/Groundwater Usage: [SB 1008](#) by Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) and Rep. Anthony Moore (R-Clinton) requires OWRB to make all permit holders authorized to take and use groundwater to implement a system of measuring groundwater usage from all wells associated with the permit. OWRB shall determine which measurement systems may be utilized. Such a system should be in proper operating condition at all times when groundwater is being produced. Data from the measuring system shall be utilized for the annual groundwater use. Beginning January 1, 2026, OWRB shall provide a five-year flex allocation of groundwater usage based on the previously determined allocated annual use of the basin or subbasin. An applicant for a five-year flex allocation is required to: submit an annual usage report of the prior years; and pay the annual groundwater permit fee. The applicant shall adhere to the cumulative annually determined allocation of the basin or subbasin over the five-year period. The permit holder shall not exceed the permitted annual allocation by over two hundred percent (200%) in any of the five years. This law does not apply to domestic wells.

The bill passed the Senate Agriculture & Wildlife Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 1. The bill moves to the full Senate.

NEXT WEEK AT THE CAPITOL

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

Monday, March 3, 2025

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

Chickens: [SB 922](#) by Sen. Mark Mann (D-OKC) defines "property" to mean a parcel of land or a combination of parcels of land operating as a single unit. The bill also defines "chanticleer" to mean a male chicken that is at least six (6) months of age, has fully developed an adult plumage, or is capable of crowing. After the effective date of this act, unless

otherwise authorized by the Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry, a person who keeps chancleers that are maintained individually and kept movement-constrained through the use of an enclosure or tether may not: keep more than five (5) chancleers per acre on a single property; and keep more than a total of twenty-five (25) chancleers on a single property. This does not affect the authority of a county, municipality, or political subdivision to enact or enforce standards or requirements related to chancleer ownership that are more stringent than the requirements of this section. This law does not limit or supersede any county, municipal, or state law, rule or regulation that provides more stringent requirements regarding the keeping of chancleers. A person who violates this law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. ODAFF has the authority to obtain injunctions against anyone who violates this law. This law does not impact poultry feeding operations or concentrated animal feeding operations; public school or private school that receives state funding; an animal shelter; a humane society; and a member of 4-H or FFA.

**House Energy & Natural Resources Oversight
Committee
3:00 p.m., Room 450**

Rural Firefighters Training: [HB 1098](#) by Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) and Sen. Tom Woods (R-Westville) prohibit any volunteer firefighter or rural firefighter from being required to attend any mandatory training.

OWRB/Metering Wells: [HB 1807](#) by Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) and Sen. Darcy Jech (R-Kingfisher) authorizes OWRB to require that all water wells requiring a permit to take and used groundwater from the OWRB be equipped with water well flow meters or an alternative measuring system as defined by the Board. Such measuring systems must remain on the well and be in proper operating condition at all times when groundwater is being produced. Data from the measuring system shall be utilized for the annual groundwater use report. Beginning January 1, 2026, a five-year allocation of a maximum annual yield of the basin or subbasin may be approved for a regular permit. An applicant for a five-year application shall be required to submit an annual usage report and pay

the annual permit fee. If approved by OWRB, the applicant may exceed the maximum annual yield in any year of the five-year allocation; provided the applicant shall adhere to the cumulative maximum annual yield for the basin or subbasin over the five-year period.

**House Health & Human Services Oversight
Committee
3:00 p.m., Room 206**

Food Truck Freedom Act: [HB 1076](#) by Rep. Derrick Hildebrant (R-Catoosa) and Sen. Christi Gillespie (R-Broken Arrow) authorizes a mobile food vendor with a food establishment license to operate in this state. The mobile food vendor must follow all state and local laws and regulations governing operations in the jurisdiction where the vendor is operating that are not in conflict with this act. A mobile food vendor must provide a copy of its state license to a local authority for recognition by the local authority before operating in the local jurisdiction. A local jurisdiction shall also issue a license or permit as long as it does not impose additional requirements that conflict with this act. The bill allows these vendors to operate in certain locations. The State Commissioner of Health may promulgate rules to enforce this section of law. The bill also allows local authorities to regulate mobile food vendors when it comes to noise, parking, reporting foodborne illnesses, and adopting and enforcing regulations that address the public health or safety risks. It does prohibit local authorities from several mobile food vendor operations. The bill adds definitions for mobile food establishment, mobile pushcart, mobile retail food establishment, mobile food vendor, mobile food vending, food vending vehicle, local authority, public property, temporary mass gathering, and nonobstructive spot inspection. If a mobile food vendor seeks to operate in a county that is governed by a city-county health department, they shall obtain a food establishment from the local authority.

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

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Senate Retirement & Government Resources
Committee

10:30 a.m., Room 4s9

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

Firearm/Storage/Civil Action: [SB 40](#) by Sen. Julie McIntosh (R-Porter) and Rep. Jay Steagall (R-Yukon) prohibits any person, property owner, tenant, employer or business entity from establishing a policy or enforcing a policy or rule that prohibits any person or employee, except a convicted felon, from transporting, carrying, or storing firearms or ammunition in a locked motor vehicle on any property set aside for any motor vehicle. The bill authorizes individuals to bring civil action to enforce the provisions of this act. The prevailing plaintiff will be entitled to actual damages as well as court costs and attorney fees.

Sen. McIntosh has filed an [amendment](#) to be taken up in Committee.

Firearms/Administrative Penalties: [SB 123](#) by Sen. George Burns (R-Pollard) and Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) removes the Five Hundred Dollar (\$500.00) administrative fine for any person carrying illegal ammunition. The bill also removes the prohibition of the .45 caliber as a restricted bullet.

Law Enforcement/OLETS: [SB 675](#) by Sen. Darcy Jech (R-Kingfisher) authorizes DPS to provide the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority with vehicle owner registration information within this state that is available through the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Telecommunication Systems network. This provision shall only apply for the purpose of toll collection for vehicles identified by the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority's video toll collection system.

Law Enforcement/Larceny: [SB 855](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) reduces the threshold for a misdemeanor of larceny from a retailer from One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

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.