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March 7, 2025

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NUMBER OF BILLS DROP OFF

As we all move forward this weekend, so does the legislative process. Yesterday, marked a big deadline for hearing bills in the chamber of origin in committee. There are 1,206 bills left alive - 518 House Bills and 506 Senate Bills, plus one SJR and one HJR. Next deadline is March 27th to hear the bills on the floor in the Chamber of origin.

OML'S OPEN RECORDS BILL TO BE HEARD MONDAY

We have been told that one of OML's priority bills - SB 535 by Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) and Rep. Daniel Pae will be on the Senate agenda on Monday.

Please contact your [Senator](#) and ask them to vote **YES** on [SB 535](#)

- SB 535 amends 51 O.S. Section 24 A.3 and 51 O.S. Section 24 A5 of the Open Records Act in order to streamline, provide uniformity, and clearly outline the open records process for both the records custodian and the requestor while ensuring transparency in government.
- Fire marshals are added to the definition of law enforcement to clarify that fire marshals are law enforcement when they are acting as fire marshals on behalf of the law enforcement department for the purposes of open records.
- A deposit system is introduced for requests with estimated fees over \$75.00 dollars, or if the requester has outstanding fees from previous requests.
- A municipality or other public body may require an individual requesting records to fill out a records request form.
- A new process is made for how a public body engages and works with open record requests that are not reasonably specific. The bill allows a public body to deny a records request after attempting to work with the person requesting the records if the request is not reasonably specific or lacks a general time frame in which the records were created.
- Specifies that records sought by a party or their representative to a pending litigation must be sought through the outlined subpoena process in the pending litigation, civil or criminal and not through the open records process.

OML has worked with the Oklahoma Press Association, and they are supportive of this legislation.

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

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BILLS ON THE MOVE:

Law Enforcement/Stalking Warning Letters: [HB 1002](#) by Rep. Jacob Rosecrants (D-Norman) and Sen. Micheal Bergstrom (R-Adair) requires law enforcement to notify the victim of stalking of the availability to meet with a certified domestic violence program representative. Law enforcement is required to serve a copy of the Stalking Warning Letter unless the victim requests that the letter not be served. Law enforcement is to serve one copy on the accused, keep one copy in the case file and prepare a report detailing all communication between the accused and law enforcement during the service of the Letter. The bill requires the service of the Stalking Warning Letter be submitted to the court clerk of the county where the Stalking Warning Letter was issued.

The bill was [amended](#) and passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Elections/Student ID Cards: [HB 1007](#) by Rep. Jim Olsen (R-Roland) and Sen. Dana Prieto (R-Tulsa) prohibits an identification card issued by a school, university, or other educational institution from being used as proof of identity for purpose of registering to vote in Oklahoma.

The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 5 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

Law Enforcement/Retirement Credit: [HB 1027](#) by Rep. Mike Kelley (R-Yukon) and Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Wilson) adds police officers who are CLEET-certified and employed by OU or OSU and lake patrolmen or dispatchers of GRDA who participate in the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Firefighter Activity Reports: [HB 1052](#) by Rep. Mike Kelley (R-Yukon) and Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) requires the fire chief of a fire department

to file the appropriate activity reports utilizing the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) with the State Fire Marshal in OKC. The report shall be completed within forty-eight (48) hours of the incident and include fire-related burn injuries and deaths. The bill also applies to Fire Protection Districts.

The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 17 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Uniform Easement Relocation: [HB 1060](#) by Rep. Jonathan Wilk (R-Goldsby) and Sen. Lisa Standridge (R-Norman) 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 & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Quality Events Incentive Act: [HB 1065](#) by Rep. Mike Kelley (R-Yukon) and Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) extends the Quality Events Incentive through June 30, 2032.

The bill passed the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 27 to 2. 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 Health & Human Services Oversight Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Firefighter Pension & Retirement/Military Service Credits: [HB 1091](#) by Rep. Mike Kelley (R-Yukon) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) provides clarification for contributions and benefits, improve retirement planning options, and addresses specific scenarios like military service, ultimately benefiting current and future firefighters in Oklahoma as they prepare for retirement.

The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 17 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

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.

The bill passed the House Energy & Natural Resources Oversight Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

ODOT/Municipal Streets: [HB 1125](#) by Rep. Denise Crosswhite-Hader (R-Piedmont) and Sen. Jack Stewart (R-Yukon) provides that in municipalities with a population of one hundred thousand (100,000) or less for Othe Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) to pay for the installation, repair, and maintenance costs for any curbs, inlets, inlet grates, inlet hoods, and inlet structures on municipal streets that are a continuation of the state or federal highway system except when performing fill and inlay projects.

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

Annexation: [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 Government Oversight Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 17 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Right to Garden Act of 2025: [HB 1189](#) by Rep. Rick West (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 Energy & Natural Resources Oversight Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 3. The bill moves to the full House.

CIB/Penalties: [HB 1216](#) by Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) and Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Wilson) 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. 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 on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 90 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

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 on Monday by a [vote](#) of 97 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

DUI/Bail: [HB 1222](#) by Rep. Emily Gise (R-OKC) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) 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, whether by telephone or in person. In determining bonds and other conditions of release, the magistrate, judge, on-call judge or court shall consider any evidence that the person is in any manner de

pendent 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 House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

Law Enforcement/School Access for Emergency Response Act: [HB 1417](#) by Rep. Josh West (R-Grove) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) creates the "School Access for Emergency Response Act" or the "SAFER Act". The bill creates a grant program within the Department of Education. Grant recipients may use the money for the following purposes: 1) deliver training programs to teach district-based security personnel the basic procedures for effective communications with first responders; 2) implement an interoperable technology solution; and 3) maintain or improve a school's existing interoperable communication hardware or software to a school that does not have it. A school is required to have a MOU with its regional PSAP or the local law enforcement agency to be eligible to apply. The Department of Education shall promulgate rules necessary to implement the requirements of this act. The bill creates a seven (7) member grant selection committee to work with the State Board of Education to determine whether a grant applicant satisfies the criteria to receive a grant. On or before January 15, 2028, and on or before January 15 each year thereafter for the duration of the grant program, each district must submit a report to the Department summarizing the activities of the grant program to the Legislature.

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

PERB/FMCS: [HB 1424](#) by Rep. Mike Kelley (R-Yukon) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) authorizes PERB to set the matter for hearing, take evidence and decide the questions presented. Whenever an employer or bargaining agent claims an unfair labor practice has been committed, it shall notify the other in writing, within six (6) months of the alleged practice. Within ten (10) days of notification each party must select and name one arbitrator and notify the other side immediately. The two arbitrators within five (5) days from and after the expiration of the ten-day period shall select the third arbitrator. If they can't agree on the third arbitrator, the bargaining agent and the corporate authorities must request from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) to provide a list of five arbitrators. The third arbitrator shall act as the chairman of the Arbitration Board. This provision applies for interest arbitration, consideration, of alleged unfair labor practices, and for certification, decertification, election or determination of the bargaining representative.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

Municipal Audits/Special Investigative Unit Auditing Revolving Fund: [HB 1433](#) by Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) and Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) recreates the Special Investigative Unit Auditing Revolving Fund for the State Auditor and Inspector. This Fund comes from funds withheld from a municipality's allocations of gasoline taxes for the purpose of conducting investigative municipal audits.

The bill was [amended](#) and passed the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 27 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

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

The bill passed the House Commerce & Economic Development Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 16 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

Public Finance/Foreign Adversary Divestment Act of 2025: [HB 1561](#) by Rep. Collin Duel (R-Guthrie) creates the Foreign Adversary Divestment Act of 2025 to ensure that Oklahoma public investment dollars will not be put at risk in countries of concern. All state and local funds are prohibited from holding investments in any foreign adversary companies. All state and local managed funds are prohibited from investing or depositing public funds in any bank that is domiciled or has its principal place of business in a foreign adversary. The Treasurer shall develop a notification system to be able to identify foreign adversaries and countries of particular concern. No public pension system will be liable in any action for damages based upon the loss or alleged loss of value in pension system assets.

The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 2. The bill moves to the full House.

Law Enforcement Records/Subpoenas: [HB 1563](#) by Rep. Collin Duel (R-Guthrie) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) modifies the requirements for the issuance of criminal subpoenas for law enforcement records. The bill provides that a subpoena issued to a law enforcement agency may command the production of body camera videos, vehicle mounted camera videos, traffic camera videos, and law enforcement incident reports. Every subpoena required to state the name of the court which issued the subpoena and the title of the action. The party responsible for the issuance of a subpoena is to take reasonable steps to avoid imposing an undue burden or expense on a person subject to the subpoena. The bill lists reasons for which the court is to quash or modify a subpoena. The bill provides that if a subpoena commands production of documents and things or inspection of premises from a nonparty before trial but does not require attendance of a witness, the subpoena must specify a date and location for the production or inspection that is at least seven days after the date that the subpoena and provides a timeline and procedure for written objections. Guidelines for claims of privilege or protection of trial preparation materials are

provided. The bill allows for the service of a subpoena by mail and clarifies the criminal contempt penalty provision.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 14 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

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

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

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 on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 71 to 17. The bill moves to the Senate.

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 criminal proceedings 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 on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 89 to 7. The bill moves to the Senate.

PERB: [HB 1627](#) by Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Altus) and Sen. Kelly Hines (R-OKC) authorizes PERB to set the matter for hearing, take evidence and decide the questions presented. Whenever an employer or bargaining agent claims an unfair labor practice has been committed, it shall notify the other in writing, within six (6) months of the alleged practice. Within ten (10) days of notification each party shall select and name one arbitrator and notify the other side immediately. The two arbitrators within five (5) days from and after the expiration of the ten-day period shall select the third arbitrator. If they can't

agree on the third arbitrator, the bargaining agent and the corporate authorities request from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) to provide a list of five arbitrators. The third arbitrator shall act as the chairman of the Arbitration Board. This provision applies for interest arbitration, consideration, of alleged unfair labor practices, and for certification, decertification, election or determination of the bargaining representative.

The bill passed the House Rules Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the full House. Rep. Caldwell has said this language will change and there will be a Floor Substitute when it is heard on the Floor.

Law Enforcement/Shopping Carts: [HB 1689](#) by Rep. Rande Worthen (R-Lawton) and Sen. Jack Stewart (R-Yukon) makes it unlawful to remove a shopping cart from the parking area of a retail establishment with the intent to permanently or temporarily deprive the owner of the shopping cart the use of the cart; or to be in possession of any shopping cart that has been removed from the parking area of a retail establishment with the intent to permanently or temporarily deprive the owner of the shopping cart the use of the cart. Any person who violates this law, upon conviction, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not to exceed one (1) year, by a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or both.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 2. 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 on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 91 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate.

Public Trust Hospitals/Open Meetings & Open Records: [HB 1738](#) by Rep. Anthony Moore (R-Clinton) and Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) exempts

a public trust hospital that enters into a joint venture or acquires an interest in a not-for-profit organization to effectuate the administration of the mission of the public trust from the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act and the Oklahoma Open Records Act. The bill authorizes certain materials to be confidential, except to the extent that the person or entity which provided such information consents to the disclosure. Executive sessions may be held to discuss such materials if deemed necessary by the trust. This does not apply to budgetary information related to appropriations or the appropriation process. "Public trust hospital" is defined as a hospital created pursuant to Section 176.1 of Title 60 or Section 790.1 of Title 19 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. 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 government 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 Government Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 3. The bill moves to the full House.

OWRB/Metering Wells: [HB 1807](#) by Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) and Sen. Darcy Jech (R-Kingfisher) requires OWRB to require that 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 shall be utilized. Such measuring systems should be in proper operating conditions 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 flex allocation of groundwater usage based off the previously determined allocated annual use of the basin or subbasin. A five-year flex

allocation shall not require a new permit for existing permit holders. An applicant for a five-year application shall be required to submit an annual usage report and pay the annual permit fee. A five-year flex allocation shall allow the permit holder to exceed the determined allocation in any of the five-year allocations, provided the applicant shall adhere to the cumulative maximum annual yield for the basin or subbasin over the five-year period. This does not apply to domestic wells.

The bill passed the House Energy & Natural Resources Oversight Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 2. The bill moves to the full House.

ODOT/Invasive Woody Species: [HB 1822](#) by Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) requires ODOT to establish and implement a program for the systematic identification, removal, and management of invasive woody species within rights-of-way under its jurisdiction. The eradication program shall include the following components: surveys to identify the presence and extent of invasive woody species, develop a prioritized plan for eradication and control; use best management practices for removal; monitor and follow-up measures to prevent reestablishment; and collaborate with local, state, and federal agencies to leverage expertise and resources.

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

Sales Taxes/Disabled Veteran Vehicles: [HB 1864](#) by Rep. Eric Roberts (R-OKC) and Sen. Kelly Hines (R-OKC) amends the sales tax exemption for one hundred percent (100%) disabled veterans by excluding vehicle purchases from the Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) exemption limit and establishing a separate Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) exemption limit for vehicle purchases once every five (5) years.

The bill passed the House Appropriations Committee with the title stricken on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 27 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Law Enforcement/Bail: [HB 1991](#) by Rep. Tim Turner (R-Kinta) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus)

authorizes if a defendant is confined in a county jail, municipal jail, or a jail operated by a regional jail authority, and the defendant has a request to hold in custody from another jurisdiction within the state, the defendant may post bond in the other jurisdiction to release the hold. Upon proof that a bond has been posted, the request to be held in custody by the other jurisdiction shall be released.

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

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

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

Eminent Domain/Attorney Fees: [HB 2036](#) by Rep. Nick Archer (R-Elk City) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) directs courts to provide reimbursement of attorney fees in certain eminent domain hearings. Property owners are eligible for attorney, appraisal, and engineering fee reimbursement if: the condemning authority requests a jury trial and the jury's award is at least ninety percent (90%) of the commissioners' award; the condemning authority and the property owner request a jury trial and the jury's award is equal to or greater than the commissioners' award; or the condemning authority makes a written settlement offer after the commissioners' report and the jury's award exceeds the offer by at least ten percent (10%).

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Law Enforcement/Dual Office Holding: [HB 2083](#) by Rep. Jason Blair (R-Moore) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (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.

The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

OUBCC: [HB 2085](#) by Rep. Jason Blair (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, 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 Commerce & Economic Development Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 15 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

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

The bill passed the House Oklahoma Government Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 16 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Elections/Political Subdivisions: [HB 2106](#) by Rep. Mike Osburn (R-Edmond) and President Pro Tempore Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) modifies when any election conducted by a county election board can be held. Regular and special elections by any county, school district, technology center school district, municipality, fire protection district, or other political subdivisions are authorized to call for the date for elections currently held in September from the second Tuesday of September to the third Tuesday of June in any year. The date for elections in November has been updated from the second Tuesday of November to the fourth Tuesday of August in any odd-numbered year. The bill provides exceptions for when the Governor can call a special election outside of the regular election dates and provides specific circumstances under which additional dates are allowed and provides dates on which the election can be held.

The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 4. The bill moves to the full House.

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

The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 17 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Municipal Code Lien Enforcement Act: [HB 2147](#) by Rep. Mike Lay (R-Jenks) and Sen. Brenda Stanley (R-MWC) applies to any municipal governing body that adopts the provisions of this act and are applicable to the collection of municipal code liens as to real property, other than owner-occupied property, in the municipality. The bill allows for any fees, penalties, and abatement costs imposed against property for violations of a municipality's housing and building codes may be enforced in rem as a lien. Municipalities may proceed with judicial in rem foreclosures of municipal code liens by an

enactment of an ordinance or resolution of the governing authority of the municipality in which the real property is located. This act does not constitute an action for personal liability for the municipal code liens against the owner or owners of real property. Rights and remedies set forth are available solely to the governmental entities authorized by law to enforce municipal ordinances. The bill allows a municipality that seeks to enforce a municipal code lien through the sale of real property shall utilize the judicial in rem proceedings as the sole remedy. Enforcement proceedings may only be brought by the municipality. The bill establishes a timeframe for filing a petition for judicial in rem foreclosure for a municipal code lien. It also provides requirements for filing a petition in rem foreclosure when the property is subject to unpaid taxes. Every municipal code lien shall be superior to all other liens, except those liens for taxes as described or reference in Section 3103 of Title 68.

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

Open Records Act/Public Access Counselor/AG's Office: [HB 2163](#) by Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) 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 receiving and specifying 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 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 Government Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 4. The bill moves to the full House.

Bid Specifications: [HB 2168](#) by Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) and Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) removes the prohibition that prohibited bid specifications, project agreements, or other controlling documents of public improvement projects from including terms that allowed or disallowed bidders or contractors from entering into agreements with a collective bargaining organization.

The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 14 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

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 on Monday by a [vote](#) of 92 to 5. The bill moves to the Senate.

Public Trust Hospitals: [HB 2295](#) by Speaker Kyle Hilbert (R-Bristow) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) prohibits a public trust hospital license or main provider location under a provider agreement with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), to be transferred from its current address to an address greater than fifteen (15) miles away, if the public trust hospital is located in a community with a population of fewer than thirty thousand (30,000) residents. If a public trust hospital facility announces closure, before the closure, a mediator shall be appointed. The municipality beneficiary of the public trust shall also appoint a mediator, and the two mediators appoint an agreed-upon third mediator. All three mediators shall agree to a sales price for the hospital if this cannot occur without mediation. The hospital will be transferred to the beneficiary municipality if they are willing to pay the agreed-upon price and have the staff to run the hospital. In the event the public trust hospital is sold to another entity, the trustees of the hospital must certify that they haven't entered into any agreement regarding any position, role, or employment for themselves or direct relatives and that they won't receive any financial benefits from the potential owners. In the event that a public third party has been leasing the public trust hospital; the CMS provider number will revert back to the public trust hospital immediately after lease termination. The public trust hospital trustees shall complete a trustee education program, approved in advance by a statewide hospital organization. Trustee education shall commence within ninety (90) days of appointment to the office of trustees for the public trust hospital.

The bill passed the House Health & Human Services Oversight Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 15 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, 2026, 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 passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

Public Nuisances: [HB 2622](#) by Rep. Erick Harris (R-Edmond) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) 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 & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 14 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

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

Law Enforcement/Oklahoma Emergency Communications Act: [HB 2710](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) creates the Oklahoma Emergency Communications Act. The bill creates the 9-1-1 Management Unit of the Oklahoma Emergency Communications Section. All personnel employed by the Oklahoma 9-1-1 Management Authority are transferred to the 9-1-1 Management Unit. The bill creates the Oklahoma Emergency Communications Section within the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security. The bill creates the Oklahoma Emergency Communications Council to advise the Oklahoma Emergency Communications Section regarding the regulation of the State Emergency Communications Systems. The Oklahoma Emergency Communications Council is to establish a strategic plan for the state radio system to ensure optimal operability and interoperability for all public safety responders in the state.

The bill was [amended](#) and passed the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 32 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

Law Enforcement/Targeted Violence Prevention Act: [HB 2720](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Warren Hamilton (R-McCurtain) creates the Targeted Violence Prevention Act. The OK Department of Homeland Security and Oklahoma Counter Terrorism Intelligence Center, which is a unit of the Office of Homeland Security is authorized to collect, analyze, and disseminate certain information to law enforcement and public safety agencies. The information disseminated shall

be confidential and the recipients of such information shall comply with the handling terms associated with the disclosure. The strategic objectives for this state: to prevent terrorist attacks; reduce vulnerability to terrorism; minimize the damage from and to recover from terrorist attacks; and other duties as the Governor may prescribe. The Homeland Security Advisor is hereby authorized to adopt and enforce such rules as may be necessary for the operation of the Office of Homeland Security and to carry out the powers and duties assigned to the Office.

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

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).

The bill passed the House Health & Human Services Oversight Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 3. The bill moves to the full House.

DEQ/Sludge/Biosolid Material: [SB 3](#) by Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) and Rep. John George (R-Newalla) establishes a moratorium on land application of sludge and biosolid after the on or after July 1, 2027. On or after the effective date of the act, DEQ shall not issue any new permit for the land application of sludge or biosolid material. Renewal of permits for land application is left to the discretion of DEQ. No later than September 1, 2026, the bill requires permit holders to reduce the amount of sludge or biosolid material land applied by at least twenty-five percent (25%) by September 1, 2025, and reduce the amount of sludge or biosolid material land applied by at least fifty percent (50%) by September 1, 2026. Permit holders are also required to submit a plan for full cessation to the DEQ and direct the Department to promulgate rules. The bill defines "biosolid material" as sewage sludge containing any perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substance.

The bill was amended and passed the Senate Energy Committee with the title stricken on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

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.

The bill was [amended](#) and passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 4 to 3. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Sales Tax Exemption/Nonprofits/Contractors & Subcontractors: [SB 44](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) creates a new 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 passed the Senate Revenue & Taxation Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 3. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Sales Tax Exemption/Nonprofits/School Supplies and Clothing: [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 bill was [amended](#) and passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with the title stricken on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 20 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Sales Tax Relief Act: [SB 72](#) by Minority Leader Julia Kirt (D-OKC) and Minority Leader Cyndi Munson (D-OKC) modifies for calendar year 2025 and subsequent calendar years, an individual who is a resident and is domiciled in this state during the entire calendar year for which the filing is made to file a claim for sales tax relief in One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), multiplied by the number of allowable personal exemptions, if the gross household income for such year does not exceed the following amounts: 1) Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) for a taxpayer filing as head of household, married filing jointly claiming zero dependents, married filing separately claiming one or more dependents or surviving spouse; 2) Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) for a taxpayer is disabled or sixty-five (65) years of age or older; and 3) Fifty-five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000.00) for a single filer or married filing separately claiming zero dependents.

The bill failed the Senate Revenue & Taxation Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 5 to 5.

Conservation Commission/Spring Creek Watershed Study Act: [SB 91](#) by Tom Woods (R-Westville) creates the Spring Creek Watershed Study Act. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission, in partnership with other local, state, and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations to undertake a comprehensive water quality study of the Spring Creek Watershed located in Cherokee, Delaware, and Mayes counties near Kansas, Oklahoma. The bill creates the Spring Creek Watershed Water Quality Advisory Group, organized by the Conservation Commission and the local conservation districts in the watershed. The advisory group consists of one (1) member representing Kansas, Oklahoma, appointed by the Commission; one (1) member representing the municipal government of Oaks, Oklahoma, appointed by the Commission and several other

members representing landowners and local conservation districts as well as any other members deemed necessary for inclusion. The bill also creates a technical advisory group. Both advisory groups should assist the Commission in developing the report as well as recommend policies incentivize participation. The bill creates the Spring Creek Watershed Study Revolving Fund for the purpose of implementing the Spring Creek Watershed Study Act.

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

Workers Compensation/Interns: [SB 95](#) by Sen. Ally Seifried (R-Claremore) and Rep. Nick Archer (R-Elk City) amends the definition of "employee" that are not included in receiving workers compensation benefits to mean any person engaging in a temporary work arrangement that allows the individual to observe a work environment and gain work experience without the expectation of financial compensation.

The bill passed the Senate Business & Insurance Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

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.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 5 to 1. The bill moves to the full Senate.

OUBCC: [SB 160](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Rep. Erick Harris (R-Edmond) authorizes the Oklahoma Uniform Building Code Commission (OUBCC) to establish continuing education training for construction industry personnel affected by the codes adopted by OUBCC including, but not limited to, code officials, design professionals, and trade workers. The training shall be offered at no cost to state-licensed building code officials and funded from the funds received in Section 1000.25 of Title

59. A fee may be assessed to all participants other than state-licensed building code officials. When assessed, the fee shall be limited to any cost directly associated with the training and remitted to the State Treasury, pursuant to OUBCC. Such a fee shall be used for the purposes of the OUBCC Act. Each code official operation in this state may complete regional training and be issued a certificate of completion. OUBCC shall establish a workforce development plan for the purpose of increasing the number of available code officials in this state. OUBCC shall promulgate rules on the workforce development applications, qualifications, forms, and procedures to implement and administer this section of law. The bill also decreases the years of experience for the local-level regulator/inspector member on OUBCC from having fifteen (15) years of experience to ten (10) years.

The bill passed the Senate Business & Insurance Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Adaptive Reuse Housing Development Program/Tax Credit: [SB 234](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) creates the Adaptive Reuse Housing Development Program that is administered by the Department of Commerce. An establishment may apply for a tax credit up to fifty percent (50%) of qualified expenditures for an adaptive reuse project. Beginning fiscal year 2026, Commerce will be authorized to approve applications for credit, not to exceed Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00). Commerce shall develop a preference rating system for approval based on the following: rental vacancy rates; rent rates; and availability of affordable housing in the area of the proposed project.

The bill was passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with the title stricken on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 22 to 1. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Water/Terry Peach Water Restoration Act: [SB 263](#) by Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) and Rep. Mike Dobrinski (R-Kingfisher) 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.

The bill was passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with the title stricken on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 21 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

OK Workforce Housing Commission: [SB 275](#) by Minority Leader Julia Kirt (D-OKC) and Rep. Daniel Pae (R-Lawton) creates on January 1, 2026, through December 30, 2035, a fifteen (15) member Oklahoma Workforce Housing Commission. Those members include the following: one official serving in a city, town or political subdivision in a county with a population less than seventy-five (75,000) persons appointed by the Governor; and one official serving a municipality with a population more than one seventy-five thousand (75,000) appointed by the President Pro Tempore. The Commission shall utilize the resources available to address the needs of extremely low-income households, very low-income households, low-income households, moderate-income households and middle-income households in order to promote a condition in which suitable housing is available to as many people as possible pursuant to rules promulgated by Commission.

The bill passed the Senate Economic, Workforce & Tourism Committee with the title stricken on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Law Enforcement/Emerson Kate Cole Act: [SB 331](#) by Sen. Kelly Hines (R-OKC) and Rep. Preston Stinson (R-Edmond) creates the Emerson Kate Cole Act. It requires a school employee to contact 911 as soon as possible in the event Epinephrine is administered to a student. The school district must notify the parent or legal guardian of a student who experiences a possible allergic reaction as soon as possible. The bill directs the State Board of Education's model policy on self-treatment and self-administration of certain medications to include at a minimum the required annual training for teachers and school employees who are directly responsible for students on the topics of food allergies,

recognizing anaphylaxis, and instruction on administering Epinephrine. It allows the training to be provided in-person or online.

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

Unoccupied Buildings/Abatement: [SB 400](#) by Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) and Rep. Ken Luttrell (R-Ponca City) allows a municipal governing body may declare buildings within its municipal limits to be unoccupied and subject to abatement if such buildings: 1) have remained unoccupied for three hundred sixty-five (365) days or more and remain in same condition; 2) cause increased municipal regulatory costs and increased municipal police and fire protection costs; and 3) devalue abutting and nearby real properties. A ten (10) days' notice that a building is to be declared unoccupied shall be given to the owner of the property before the governing body holds a hearing. A copy of the notice shall be posted on the property to be affected. A notice shall also be sent to the mortgage holder. The municipality shall obtain a receipt of mailing from the postal service, which receipt shall indicate the date of mailing and the name and address of the individual. However, if the mortgage holder or property owner cannot be identified, the governing body must post it in a publication once no less than ten (10) days prior to the hearing. A hearing is held where the mortgage holder or property owner can show where they are trying to remediate the property. The property owner is given the right to appeal the decision of the governing body. If the governing body determines that the property meets the criteria, the municipality may start the abatement process. The governing body may designate an individual to carry out the duties assigned by ordinance.

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

Law Enforcement/Badge & Firearm Retention: [SB 462](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Rep. Robert Manger (R-OKC) authorizes a municipal police officer who retires under the Oklahoma Police Pension & Retirement System the ability to request

to retain custody and possession of his or her municipal-issued firearm and badge. The retiring officer shall make the request in writing to the head of the municipal law enforcement agency. The agency head may grant the request except in a few cases: not in good standing; convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude; mentally or physically incapacitated and could not perform duties if recalled; or good cause shows that granting approval of the request is detrimental to public health, safety and welfare. Upon the death of a municipal police officer prior to retirement, custody and possession of a firearm and badge may be awarded to the next of kin in accordance with the agency's policy.

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

Law Enforcement/Civil Asset Forfeiture/Reporting: [SB 596](#) by Sen. Shane Jett (R-Shawnee) requires law enforcement agencies seizing property using asset forfeiture must submit an annual report by February 1 of each year identifying the property seized and the disposition of such property to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and Governor. Such annual reports relating to asset forfeiture shall be made available to the public.

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

Massage Therapists/Zoning Regulations: [SB 644](#) by Sen. Kristen Thompson (R-Edmond) and Rep. Preston Stinson (R-Edmond) provides exceptions to the exemptions on massage therapists by not affecting the regulations of a city, county, or a political subdivision of this state relating to zoning or licensing requirements for business locations offering massage therapy.

The bill passed the Senate Business & Insurance Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

(OML Priority) Sanitary Sewer Systems/GTCA: [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 recordkeeping of a sanitary sewer system; a policy of inspections, cleaning, and root control of sewer lines; a policy of responding to calls for sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) to clear municipal sewer mains, flush with water and deodorize the land upon which the SSO has occurred, and remove SSO debris; adoption of a Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Ordinance that makes unlawful the improper introduction of FOGS0 from nonresidential entities; the adoption of an ordinance requiring new construction or remodels to be connected to the sanitary sewer system, including the installation of a backflow prevention device; adoption of a policy that will notify private residential property owners who are connected to the sanitary sewer system to provide installation of a backflow prevention system; adoption of a funding availability model. Funding availability models shall be reviewed at least every five (5) years to include a rate study and adoption of a five-year capital improvement plan. 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. There shall be no right of recovery for personal injury from a (SSO) provided that the utility is working to maintain its (SSO) in accordance with the guidance and criteria promulgated by the governing body. The total liability on claims within the scope of GTCA shall not exceed: Thirty-five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00) for any claim or to any claimant who has more than one claim for loss of property, including consequential damages; for physical injury from a municipal overflow or backup Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) per individual person occupying the structure with a total cap of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) per occurrence. For nuisance, annoyance, or inconvenience damages from a municipal overflow or backup, the bill establishes a similar Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) cap not to exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) per occurrence regardless of the number of persons affected by the occurrence. The bill also adds inclusion of new liability exclusions clarifying and expanding the protections for political subdivisions and utilities regarding claims related to storm sewer and sanitary sewer issues. It limits liability for specific weather-related events,

establishes a timeframe for reporting sewer issues, and outlines conditions under which claims on private property related to sewer overflows may not be pursued. Such changes aim to reduce the risk of legal claims against entities responsible for public utilities and enhance their operational protections.

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

Law Enforcement/Use of Deadly Force: [SB 657](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) provides that an officer or other person acting by the officer's command in the officer's aid and assistance whose use of deadly force is found during any pretrial hearing or proceeding to be unjustified pursuant to this section may appeal such ruling to the Court of Criminal Appeals within ten (10) days of the ruling. Priority shall be given to appeals made pursuant to this subsection and an order staying proceedings shall be entered pending the outcome of the appeal. If an appeal is not brought within ten (10) days of the ruling, the officer waives the right to immediate appeal of the ruling but does not waive any right to assert the claim at trial or upon direct appeal.

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

Law Enforcement/Canine Cooperative Grant Program: [SB 750](#) by Sen. Jack Stewart (R-Yukon) authorizes Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management (ODEMA) 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 to be designated the Canine Cooperative Grant Program Revolving Fund. ODEMA 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 Appropriations Committee with the title stricken on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 21 to 2. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Architectural & Licensed Interior Designs Act: [SB 751](#) by Sen. Jack Stewart (R-Yukon) modifies the value of construction value from One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) to Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) of all buildings used by a municipality, county, state, public trust, public agency or federal government that are exempt from the State Architectural & Licensed Interior Designers Act.

The bill passed the Senate Business & Insurance Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Law Enforcement/VPO Service: [SB 813](#) by Sen. Ally Seifried (R-Claremore) and Rep. Stan May (R-Broken Arrow) requires a peace officer to make every attempt to serve the subject of the victim protection order and complete a return service when filing the petition with the court. If the peace officer is unable to obtain service, the petition shall be filed by a peace officer with the district court the next business day. The court clerk shall receive the petition upon delivery by the peace officer and document the hearing date and time assigned to the case as documented by the peace officer. If the court clerk observes that service has not been obtained, the petition shall still be filed by the court clerk and issued to the appropriate office of the county sheriff to obtain service with priority. The peace officer requesting the order shall be notified by the judge of the date, time, and courtroom location in which the hearing will be held. The peace officer shall provide the victim and subject of the order with a copy of the completed order and return the original order to the district court.

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

Finance/Bond Transparency: [SB 817](#) by Sen. Kendal Sacchieri (R-Blanchard) and Rep. Cody Maynard (R-Durant) makes provisions applicable on obligations issued by a trust organized pursuant to the provisions of Section 176 et seq. of Title 60 for the benefit of a local government entity, whereby the proceeds of such obligations were expended by the local government entity for projects, assets, or property. Any local government entity that fails to comply with the provisions of this law shall not issue any bonds or other obligations until the entity comes into compliance with this subsection of law.

The bill passed the Senate Revenue & Taxation Committee with the title stricken on Monday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Preemption/Immigration Policy: [SB 868](#) by Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) and Rep. Brian Hill (R-Mustang) creates the Prohibition on Sanctuary Policies for Illegal Immigration Act. A state entity, law enforcement agency, or local governmental entity is prohibited from adopting or having in effect a sanctuary policy. A law enforcement agency shall use its best efforts to support the enforcement of federal immigration law. The AG may file a suit against a local governmental entity or local law enforcement in a court of competent jurisdiction for declaratory or injunctive relief for a violation. If the Governor finds that a local governmental entity or local law enforcement agency has violated this law, the Governor may suspend any state funding set to be distributed to them until a court enjoins the unlawful sanctuary policy.

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

Construction/Oath: [SB 898](#) by Sen. Adam Pugh (R-Edmond) removes the requirement that a written statement under oath must accompany a bid for construction.

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

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

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

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 chanticleers that are maintained individually and kept movement-constrained through the use of an enclosure or tether may not: keep more than five (5) chanticleers per acre on a single property; and keep more than a total of twenty-five (25) chanticleers 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 chanticleer 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 chanticleers. 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.

The bill failed the Senate Agriculture & Wildlife Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 3-9.

Insurance/Ambulance Coverage: [SB 1067](#) by Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) and Rep. Preston Stinson (R-Edmond) modifies the definition of "covered ambulance services" to include unscheduled and emergency ground ambulance services. The bill

authorizes a local governmental entity, or ambulance service provider operating on its behalf, to annually submit to the Insurance Department, in the form and manner prescribed by the Insurance Commissioner, the ambulance service rates set or approved, whether in contract or ordinance, by the local governmental entity. The Department shall establish and maintain on its public website a database listing all submitted rates. The bill modifies the reimbursement rates and criteria for certain ambulance services.

The bill passed the Senate Health & Human Services Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 2. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Law Enforcement/Assault & Battery/Alternative Programs: [SB 1100](#) by Sen. Ally Seifried (R-Claremore) authorizes the court to require a defendant to complete an assessment by a batterers intervention program that is certified by the AG, to determine if it is appropriate for the defendant to undergo treatment. The program lasts a minimum of twenty-six (26) weeks.

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

Medical Marijuana/Excise Tax: [SB 1125](#) by Sen. Dusty Deever (R-Elgin) authorizes counties and municipalities the ability to levy an excise tax upon the sale of medical marijuana. The municipality or county must receive approval from a majority of voters residing in the municipality in a special election called by the governing body or by initiative petition signed by not less than five percent (5%) of the registered voters of the municipality. If a majority fails to approve the tax, another special election shall not be called for at least six (6) months. The tax shall become effective the first day of the calendar quarter following approval. The duration of the tax may be limited or unlimited. If recreational marijuana is legalized by the state, the tax shall automatically apply to it as well.

The bill passed the Senate Revenue & Taxation Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 4. The bill moves to the full Senate.