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

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### YOUR VOICES WERE HEARD-OML PRIORITY PASSES

We asked and you answered. Thank you so much for reaching out to your local Senator on OML's Priority Bill dealing with Open Records.

**SB 535** by Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) and Rep. Daniel Pae (R-Lawton) adds an exception for confidential records to include records sought by a party or the party's representative to a pending civil litigation or criminal prosecution in which the records may be sought through a subpoena process. The bill allows for a public body to require advance payment of the estimated fees authorized under this section when the estimated costs of searching, redacting, or making a copy of the record or records exceed Seventy-five Dollars (\$75.00). Any portion of an advance payment that exceeds the costs of responding to the request shall be returned to the requestor. If a records request is unreasonably vague, open-ended, or otherwise does not describe the requested records with reasonable specificity, a public body may ask the requestor to clarify the request. To have reasonable specificity, a request shall specify a general time frame within which the requested records would have been created or transmitted, seek identifiable records, rather than general information without any qualifiers or other specifications, and include search terms that are sufficiently specific to avoid generating an unreasonably large number of records, such as thousands of pages of emails. If a public body has engaged with the requestor to seek the information needed to fulfill the request and to reach a reasonable solution that accommodates the interests of both the requestor and the public body, including providing the requestor with general topics of records related to the request, the request may be denied if it is still not reasonably specific and would excessively disrupt the public body's essential function.

The bill passed the Senate on Monday by a [vote](#) of 45 to 2. The bill moves to the House.

### FLOOR WORK CONTINUES

The focus was on the House and Senate Floors this week. The House heard approximately 200 bills, and the Senate heard just under 90. Next week is Spring Break, and the Legislature will only meet on Monday and Tuesday. It will be a short week while we work towards the March 27<sup>th</sup> deadline.

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## **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 on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 76 to 11. The bill moves to the Senate.

**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 on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 85 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate.

**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 on Monday by a [vote](#) of 92 to 2. The bill moves to the Senate.

**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 on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 89 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

**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 on Monday by a [vote](#) of 72 to 22. The bill moves to the Senate.

**Food Truck Freedom Act:** [HB 1076](#) by Rep. Derrick Hildebrant (R-Catoosa) and Sen. Christi Gillespie (R-Broken Arrow) authorizes a mobile food vendor 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. state license to a local authority for recognition by the local authority before operating in the local's jurisdiction. A local jurisdiction shall also issue a license or permit as long as it does 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 local authority may regulate mobile food vendors' operations as well as other listed powers given to local authorities in the measure. However, there are certain things listed in the measure that local authorities are not authorized to do such as prohibit a mobile food vendor from lawfully operating in its jurisdiction if the vendor holds a food establishment license and is in compliance with the act and other listed prohibitions on local authority. Any mobile food vendor who has been notified of a possible suspension or revocation of their license may request an administrative hearing. The State Department of Health may issue civil penalties to a mobile food vendor who operates without a license or with a suspended or revoked license. This act does not require a local authority to adopt a program to regulate of mobile food vendors. A mobile food vendor operating in a county governed by a city-county health department to obtain a local food establishment license.

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The bill passed the House on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 85 to 3. The bill moves to the Senate.

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

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

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 83 to 4. The bill moves to the Senate.

**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 on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 88 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate.

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

distribution system from which that individual was previously removed.

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

**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 Thursday by a [vote](#) of 76 to 6. The bill moves to the Senate.

**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

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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 on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 71 to 12. The bill moves to the House.

**Municipal Audits/Special Investigative Unit Auditing Revolving Fund:** [HB 1433](#) by Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) 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 passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 81 to 0. The bill moves to the House.

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

**Board of Adjustments:** [HB 1496](#) by Rep. Rob Hall (R-Tulsa) and Sen. Brian Guthrie (R-Bixby) 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 on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 80 to 5. The bill moves to the Senate.

**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 on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 89 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

**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 or interfere with the ability of the first responder to perform such duty; threaten the first responder with physical harm; or harass the first responder. A person, upon conviction, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one (1) year or by a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or both.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 84 to 5. The bill moves to the Senate.

**Public Trust Hospitals/Open Meetings & Open Records:** [HB 1738](#) by Stacy Jo Adams (R-Duncan) 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.



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The bill passed Thursday by a [vote](#) of 84 to 5. The bill moves to the Senate.

**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 on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 73 to 16. The bill moves to the Senate.

**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 on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 85 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

**Law Enforcement/Display of Lights/Eluding Officer:** [HB 1993](#) by Rep. Tim Turner (R-Kinta) and Sen. Warren Hamilton (R-McCurtain) 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 on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 78 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

**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 Oklahoma Health Care Authority to extend the benefits of the Oklahoma Employees Insurance and Benefits Plans to municipal and county fire departments.

The bill passed the House on Monday by a [vote](#) of 87 to 5. The bill moves to the Senate.

**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 on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 83 to 3. The bill moves to the Senate.

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

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 83 to 4. The bill moves to the Senate.

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

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

**Law Enforcement/Surplus Property:** [HB 2724](#) by Rep. Mark Chapman (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Julie McIntosh (R-Porter) allows OHP, pursuant to rules promulgated by OMES, to donate surplus OHP vehicles driven over ninety thousand (90,000) miles to any law enforcement agency of any political subdivision in a county with a population of no more than one hundred thousand (100,000) residents. The use of such donated vehicles shall be limited to valid and authorized law enforcement efforts by the receiving agency.

The bill passed the House on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 85 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

**Oklahoma Rural Hospitals Funding Assistance Grant Program Act of 2025:** [HB 2754](#) by Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Altus) and Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Wilson) establishes the Oklahoma Rural Hospitals Funding Assistance Grant Program. As used in this Act, "adequate medical care facilities" means facilities that: would meet or meet 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 on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 72 to 11. The bill moves to the Senate.

**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 on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 60 to 17. The bill moves to the Senate.

**Sales Tax Exemption/Firearm Safety Devices:** [SB 50](#) by Sen. JoAnna Dossett (D-Tulsa) and Rep. Nick Archer (R-Elk City) 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 on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 43 to 1. The bill moves to the House.

**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 on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 33 to 12. The bill moves to the House.

**Nuclear Energy Study/Corporation Commission:** [SB 130](#) by Sen. George Burns (R-Pollard) and Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) directs the Corporation Commission, no later than ninety (90) days after the effective date of this act, to start the process to engage an outside consulting firm to conduct a technical and legal feasibility study on nuclear energy generation in this state. The bill sets what the feasibility study should evaluate and consider. The Corporation Commission in conjunction with retail electric suppliers and municipally owned electric utilities shall cooperate in providing information relevant to the feasibility study, providing safeguards to protect confidential information. The study shall be delivered electronically to the Pro Tempore, Speaker and Governor nine (9) months after the effective date of this act.

The bill passed the Senate on Monday by a [vote](#) of 39 to 7. The bill moves to the House.

**OK Housing Authorities Act:** [SB 333](#) by Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Mark Lawson (R-Sapulpa) modifies the Oklahoma Housing Authorities Act. The bill broadens the definition of

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"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 on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 25 to 19. The bill moves to the House.

**Finance/Surcharges:** [SB 351](#) by Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) and Rep. Neil Hays (R-Checotah) specifies that there shall be no limit on the offer of a discount for the payment of goods and services using cash or check. The bill requires any seller passing on the credit card or debit card processing fee to list the fee on a separate charge. The fee shall not exceed the total of the bank processing fees, financial transaction fees, the cost of providing for secure transaction, portal fees, and fees necessary to compensate for increased bandwidth incurred as a result of providing the transaction.

The bill passed the Senate on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 43 to 0. The bill moves to the House.

**REAP Reporting:** [SB 473](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) and Rep. Eric Roberts (R-OKC) requires each entity to develop a plan to measure the qualitative effects of projects funded through the Rural Economic Action Plan of 1996. The plan may utilize inquiries or surveys of the public, local governments, or municipalities to measure the effect. On or before January 1, 2028, each entity required to develop a plan shall submit a report to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce detailing the qualitative effects of at least two projects that received funds pursuant to the Rural Economic Action Plan of 1996. Any expenditures associated with creating the plan required by subsection A of this section and the report required by subsection B of this section shall be made using the initial planning expenditure payments.

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

**Tax Compliance/Good Behavior:** [SB 583](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) and Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) expands the requirements of a noncompliant taxpayer to include filing all required reports and remitting all taxes due for a consecutive twenty-four (24) month period to avoid closure of the business. The bill also expands the defense or defenses to the closure to include written proof that the noncompliant taxpayer has had no more than three (3) instances of untimely filed reports or late tax remittances during a consecutive twenty-four (24) month period.

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

**Municipal Zoning/Charter Schools:** [SB 674](#) by Sen. Adam Pugh (R-Edmond) and Rep. Chad Caldwell (R-Enid) authorizes a charter school, after acquiring a building not currently zoned for use as an educational building, to submit a charter school site plan to the municipal governing body, municipal zoning commission, or other such body with zoning authority in the municipality where the building is located. The charter school must include information demonstrating the building will be used for at least five (5) years beginning upon use and a plan that details how the building may be altered or enhanced. If the municipal governing body, municipal zoning commission, or other zoning authority disapproves the request, they must provide a written explanation for the reason of disapproval with an option for resubmission. Distance requirements on any business or entity are not impacted with the approval of the charter school; however, if the business or entity ceases, then the distance requirement applies.

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

**Finance/Surcharge Repealer:** [SB 677](#) by Sen. Spencer Kern (R-Duncan) and Rep. Emily Gise (R-OKC) repeals 14A O.S. 2021, Section 2-417, which allows municipalities the ability to charge a surcharge on the use of a debit or credit card.

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

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**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 on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 40 to 0. The bill moves to the House.

**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 on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 44 to 0. The bill moves to the House.

**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 on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 42 to 0. The bill moves to the House.

**Local Government Campaign Finance and Financial Disclosure Act:** [SB 890](#) by Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) and Rep. Mike Osburn (R-Edmond) transfers the duties from the municipal clerk and county clerk to the Ethics Commission. The Ethics Commission may post copies of statements of organization and reports of contributions and expenditures.

The bill passed the Senate on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 43 to 0. The bill moves to the House.

**Law Enforcement/Military Installations:** [SB 930](#) by Sen. Brenda Stanley (R-MWC) and Rep. Nicole Miller (R-Edmond) creates a framework to ensure that law enforcement services are accessible on US military installations in Oklahoma, with a primary focus on juvenile matters affecting public safety and welfare. The State of Oklahoma accepts the relinquishment of exclusive jurisdiction over military installations from the federal government, obtaining concurrent jurisdiction for as long as the federal government maintains control of the property.

The Governor shall not accept requests for concurrent jurisdiction unless they meet specific requirements: the identity and authority of the requestor, clarity regarding the purpose of the request, detailed descriptions of affected properties, and acknowledgment of potential future land acquisitions. The Governor's acceptance of such requests must be documented and filed with the Secretary of State. The state will incur no liabilities through this concurrent jurisdiction arrangement, and they may enter into reciprocal agreements with federal agencies to delineate jurisdictional duties without any obligation to do so.

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



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**(OML Support) Public Finance/Investment Procedures:** [SB 957](#) by Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Wilson) and Rep. Mark Lawson (R-Sapulpa) requires the governing body, the authority of a public entity having as its beneficiary a political subdivision, or the governing board of a qualified pool investment program to authorize an investment policy by ordinance or resolution directing the treasurer to invest public funds. The investment policy shall address liquidity, diversification, safety of principal, yield, maturity and quality, and capability of investment management. The treasurer shall focus on safety and liquidity in the investment of funds and use competitive bids when purchasing brokered securities and shall seek to maximize yield within each class of investment instrument consistent with the safety of the funds invested. Any political subdivision which elects to participate in a local government investment pool shall be deemed to have authorized investments in the items specified in paragraphs 1 through 10 of subsection B, notwithstanding any differences in the written investment plans adopted by the governing body.

The bill repeals 62 O.S. 2021, Section 348.1 and 62 O.S. 2023, Section 348.3. regarding investment policies.

The bill passed the Senate on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 44 to 0. The bill moves to the House.