

08-25

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### DEADLINES COME AND GO - OML PRIORITIES STILL ALIVE

Yesterday marked the next big deadline for the Legislature. The House passed 448 bills and 1 Joint Resolution while leaving 40 bills on the desk. In the Senate more than 180 bills were not heard. Just over 750 bills and joint resolutions remain alive. The next step is for bills to be heard in committees in the opposite chamber. At this time, no bills have been assigned to committees. In the meantime, two of OML's priorities made it to the next round.

**Sanitary Sewer:** [SB 650](#) by Sen. Pro Tempore Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) and Rep. Erick Harris (R-Edmond) proposes a shift in public policy on sanitary sewer operations by rewarding municipalities that are meeting certain maintenance and operational standards with liability protections from nuisance-based tort claims.

Recent court rulings have changed the nuisance rulings from a per occurrence to a per occupancy decision making it fiscally challenging for our municipalities. The legislation also adds exemptions to address Court of Civil Appeals rulings such as flooding or backup from excessive rainfalls creating flow in excess of system design capacity.

Municipalities will still be held responsible for any actual damage and injury, and the damage limit is being increased by forty percent (40%), and the aggregate cap of all claims from a single occurrence is raised by twenty-five percent (25%).

Currently, funds that could be used to upgrade and maintain aging infrastructure are going towards attorney's fees and being spent on litigation. SB 650 provides those protections from nuisance-based claims while still paying for any actual damage caused by a sewer backup.

Thanks to you all for reaching out to your Senators. The bill passed the Senate unanimously on Tuesday by a vote of 47 to 0. It now moves to the House.

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

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

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

The bill passed the Senate on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 37 to 8. It now moves to the House.

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

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

The bill passed the House on Monday by a [vote](#) of 77 to 14. It now moves to the Senate.

[HB 1166](#) by Rep. Mike Kelley (R-Yukon) 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.

HB 1166 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.

Under current statute if the land is agriculture land of 5 acres or more prior to annexation, the land is exempt from ordinances restricting land use and building.

The bill passed the House on Monday by a [vote](#) of 76 to 18. It now moves to the Senate.

**Public Utility/Electricity:** [HB 1374](#) by Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) and Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) allows certain companies and individuals that produce power on their premises to avoid being regulated as a public utility if they use the power directly or indirectly by contracting with a public utility, rural electric cooperative, or municipality for the purpose of furnishing electric service to a specific customer or is an exempt wholesale generator. There shall not be a requirement nor obligation for a public utility to serve any customer receiving electric service from an entity described herein. Further, it shall not limit any party from asserting a right they may otherwise be entitled to under Oklahoma law including filings with the Commission. Any project pursuant to this act is required to utilize a natural gas component in their power generation capacity.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 86 to 0. It now moves to the Senate.

**Public Finance/Foreign Adversary Divestment Act of 2025:** [HB 1561](#) by Rep. Collin Duel (R-Guthrie) and Sen. Kelly Hines (R-OKC) prohibits all state and local managed funds from holding investments in any foreign adversary or any company located within, owned by or controlled by a foreign adversary. The divestment of affected public funds is required by January 1, 2036, or ten (10) years after the effective date of the act, whichever is earliest. Anytime a new country is added to the foreign

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adversary list, divestment is required within ten (10) years after the designation. The State Treasurer is responsible for creating a list of restricted companies that are associated with a foreign adversary and distributing the list to each state or locally managed fund within six (6) months of the effective date of the act. A foreign adversary is any country designated by U.S. Secretary of State as a hostile country or a county of particular concern. No public pension system shall be liable in any action for damages based upon the loss or alleged loss of value in pension system assets. The provisions shall also be applicable to any action filed naming the governing board of a public pension system, one or more members of the governing board of a public pension system, or any of its employees as defendants. The State of Oklahoma, the public pension system plans, as well as officers, board members, and employees of the state or the public pension systems are immune from civil liability for any act or omission related to any provision under this act. In addition to immunity, they are entitled to indemnification from the public pension system losses, costs, and expenses, including reasonable attorney fees, associated with defending against any claim or suit related to any provision of this act.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 61 to 33. It now moves to the Senate.

**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 issued is 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 outlines the reasons for which the court is to quash or modify a subpoena. The bill also 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 (7) days after the date that the subpoena and provides a timeline and procedure for written objections. The bill provides guidelines for claims of privilege or protection of trial preparation materials. Service of subpoena by mail may be accomplished by mailing a copy by certified mail with return receipt requested and delivery restricted to the person named in the subpoena. If service is made by a person other than a peace officer, such person shall make affidavit thereof. Failure to make proof of service does not affect the validity of the service, but service of a subpoena by mail shall not be effective if the mailing was not accepted by the person named in the subpoena. The bill clarifies the criminal contempt from which the subpoena was issued.

The bill passed the House on Thursday with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 77 to 8. It now moves to the Senate.

**Fire Protection/Child Care Homes:** [HB 1847](#) by Rep. Suzanne Schreiber (D-Tulsa) and Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) requires DHS to work with the State Fire Marshal to develop guidelines that allow family childcare homes and large childcare homes to operate under the requirements of the 2018 International Residential Code adopted by OUBCC. Family childcare homes and large childcare homes shall not be denied a license to operate should they comply with the requirements. No agency, municipality, county or other political subdivision shall place stricter fire requirements than those outlined in the International Fire Code on the family and large childcare homes.

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

**Firearms/Convicted Felons:** [HB 1990](#) by Rep. Tim Turner (R-Kinta) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) adds "imitation pistol" which means any pistol capable of raising in the mind of the one threatened with such device a fear that it is a real pistol from being carried by a convicted felon.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 93 to 0. It now moves to the Senate.

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**Energy Discrimination Elimination Act:** [HB 2043](#) by Rep. Nick Archer (R-Elk City) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) removes political subdivisions from the provisions of the Energy Discrimination Elimination Act.

The bill passed the House on Thursday with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 60 to 30. It now moves to the Senate.

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

The bill passed the House on Monday by a [vote](#) of 86 to 6. It now moves to the Senate.

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

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 81 to 9. It now moves to the Senate.

**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 on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 96 to 0. It now moves to the Senate.

**Elections/Political Subdivisions:** [HB 2106](#) by Rep. Mike Osburn (R-Edmond) and 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 on Monday by a [vote](#) of 92 to 0. It now moves to the Senate.

**Municipal Code Lien Enforcement Act:** [HB 2147](#) by Rep. Mike Lay (R-Jenks) and Sen. Brenda Stanley (R-Midwest City) Municipal Code Lien Enforcement Act and allows any fees, penalties, enforcement costs, and abatement costs imposed against a property for violations of a municipality's housing and building codes to be enforced as a lien. The measure provides that a municipal code lien is superior to all other liens except those for taxes. Owner-occupied property is exempt from this measure. Municipalities are required to enact an ordinance or resolution approving the use of the provisions of this act before proceeding with a judicial foreclosure on a property with a municipal lien. Such ordinances or resolutions must include certain information as outlined in the measure. After a municipal code lien is filed with the county clerk, the code enforcement director is to identify the



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properties on which to begin a foreclosure. The code enforcement director is to wait six months from the date the municipal lien is recorded before filing a petition for foreclosure. The petition is to include certain information and to be mailed to all interested parties.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 75 to 16. It now moves to the Senate.

**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 on Monday by a [vote](#) of 90 to 0. It now 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 on Monday by a [vote](#) of 84 to 6. It now moves to the Senate.

**OK Main Street Grant Program Revolving Fund:** [HB 2407](#) by Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) and Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) creates the Oklahoma Main Street Grant Program Revolving Fund in the Department of Commerce. In order to qualify for the grant, the Main Street applying shall be required to: be designated and qualified Main Street by the Oklahoma Main Street Program; and shall contract with Commerce, upon receiving the grant, which will require a submission of proof that the Main Street is still a designated Main Street and an invoice to Commerce to be paid no earlier than June 1 of any fiscal year in which there are funds to award the grant. If Main Street is no longer designated Main Street, they will be removed from any opportunities to receive grants.

The bill passed the House on Monday by a [vote](#) of 68 to 27. It now moves to the Senate.

**Biosolids/Sludge:** [SB 3](#) by Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) and Rep. John George (R-Newalla) will prohibit land application of sludge and biosolid materials after July 1, 2027. This will have a tremendous impact on cities and towns and will cost municipalities millions of dollars that will have to be passed along to the ratepayers.

If a municipality disposes of their sludge/biosolids through a land application process, banning this process will require a city or town to make significant capital expenditures to purchase equipment to dewater the sludge/biosolids, modify existing structures to store this material and acquire equipment to load and haul the sludge/biosolids to a privately owned landfill.

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The bill passed the Senate on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 42 to 4. The title is off the bill. It now moves to the House.

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

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

**Law Enforcement/DUI:** [SB 54](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Rep. John George (R-Newalla) modifies sentencing provisions relating to persons convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicating substances twice within 10 years. The bill establishes a mandatory minimum imprisonment in the custody of the DOC. The mandatory minimum is set at ten (10) days for first time violators, thirty (30) days for second time violators, and an additional thirty (30) days for each subsequent violation beyond the second. Mandatory blood or breath tests are required to determine alcohol concentration in certain incidents relating to accidents, driving the wrong way, driving in excess of twenty (20) mph beyond the speed limit, operating a vehicle with a person younger than 18 years of age, reckless driving, and driving to elude law enforcement. Reckless driving as it relates to driving under the influence shall be classified as aggravated driving under the influence, which shall be a felony offense.

The bill passed the Senate on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 41 to 4. It now moves to the House.

**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 passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 56 to 0. It now moves to the House.

**Conservation Commission/Spring Creek Watershed Study Act:** [SB 91](#) by Tom Woods (R-Westville) and Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) 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 passed the Senate on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 45 to 0. It now moves to the House.

**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

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work experience without the expectation of financial compensation.

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

**Water/Groundwater Permits:** [SB 133](#) by Sen. George Burns (R-Pollard) and Rep. John George (R-Newalla) requires that anyone who applies to the OWRB for an appropriate groundwater permit to include documentation that the applicant has a valid, unexpired driver license issued in this state or a valid US passport.

The bill passed the Senate on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 43 to 3. It now moves to the House.

**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 passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 43 to 0. It now moves to the House.

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

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

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

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 40 to 7. It now moves to the House.

**Law Enforcement/Age of Consent:** [SB 445](#) by Sen. Warren Hamilton (R-McCurtain) and Rep. Tim Turner (R-Kinta) increases the age of consent for sexual intercourse from sixteen (16) to eighteen (18) years of age. No person can be convicted of rape on account of an act of sexual intercourse with anyone over the age of sixteen (16), with his or her consent, unless such person is more than four (4) years older than the other person at the time of the act.

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

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

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 26 to 20. It now moves to the House.

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

The bill passed the Senate on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 36 to 7. It now moves to the House.

**Firearms/Preemption:** [SB 500](#) by Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) and Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) prohibits a governmental entity from entering into contracts with a company for the purchase of goods or services unless the contract contains a written verification from the company that it does not and will not discriminate against a firearm entity or firearm trade association. It does not apply to a governmental entity that contracts with a sole-source provider or does not receive a bid from a company that is able to provide verification discriminating against a firearm entity or firearm trade association. The provisions of this section of law apply only to a contract between a governmental entity or a company with at least ten (10) full-time employees and has a value of at least One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) that is paid wholly or partly from public funds of the governmental entity.

The bill passed the Senate on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 38 to 8. It now moves to the House.

**Law Enforcement/Marijuana Warning Labels:** [SB 518](#) by Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Wilson) and Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) requires marijuana and marijuana products can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment: a person should not operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana or marijuana products. The ingestion of any amount of marijuana or marijuana products before driving may result in criminal prosecution for driving under the influence.

The bill passed the Senate on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 36 to 7. It now moves to the House.

**Law Enforcement/Fraudulent Documents Identification Unit:** [SB 544](#) by Sen. Jonathan Wingard (R-Ada) and Rep. Dell Kerbs (R-Shawnee) authorizes DPS to establish an Identity Verification

Unit (IVU). The chief administrator of the law enforcement agency that requests the issuance of a driver license shall be jointly responsible to ensure the license is promptly returned to DPS. DPS is also authorized to enter into interagency agreements with law enforcement agencies requesting issuance of such a license setting forth the terms of the authorization for use of the license, the terms for custody and control of the license, and the terms for duration and revocation of authorization to use or possess the license.

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

**Data Privacy:** [SB 546](#) by Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) and Rep. Josh West (R-Grove) creates the Oklahoma Computer Data and Privacy Act. This bill entitles a consumer to request that a business that collects the consumer's personal information deletes any personal information the business has collected from the consumer. It contains several other provisions to ensure that the privacy of consumers' personal information. It also preempts any ordinance, order or rule adopted by a political subdivision of this state relating to the collection or sale by a business of a consumer's personal information. This bill contains penalties, definitions, and extensive details.

The bill passed the Senate on Wednesday with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 46 to 0. It now moves to the House.

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



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The bill passed the Senate on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 40 to 7. It now moves to the House.

**Public Finance/Proxy Voting:** [SB 568](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) and Sen. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) provides that all shares held directly or indirectly by or on behalf of a governmental entity and the participants and their beneficiaries shall only be voted upon in the pecuniary interest of plan participants and their beneficiaries. No investment manager, fiduciary, or governmental entity shall adopt the practice of following the recommendations of a proxy adviser or other service provider unless such an adviser follows proxy voting guidelines that match the obligation of the governmental entity. The bill prohibits governmental entities from granting proxy voting authority to any person who is not a part of the governmental entity unless such a person follows proxy voting guidelines that match the obligation of the governmental entity.

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

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

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

**Law Enforcement/Jail Standards:** [SB 595](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) creates the Oklahoma Jail Standards Act authorizing the State Commissioner of Health to

promulgate rules to implement jail standards. The bill requires all detention facilities and lockup facilities to operate in compliance with the provisions of the bill. The bill also lists and describes the standards to which all detention facilities shall operate under.

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

**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 on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 43 to 3. It now moves to the House.

**Municipal Zoning/Planning Commission:** [SB 647](#) by Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) and Rep. Preston Stinson (R-Edmond) while comprehensive plans may be utilized as a guide in the decision-making process, determinations shall be made in light of objective and relevant facts as well as by utilizing processes and requirements outlined in the municipal code. The notice and hearing are intended to provide members of the public with a right to be heard, explain how they think their interests are affected and bring to the attention of the governing body objective and relevant facts. However, decisions on land use applications shall not be based solely upon the presence, numbers or magnitude of opposition or protests in the absence of objectives and relevant facts. Municipal zoning decisions are deemed valid unless the challenging party proves the ordinance lacks a substantial relation to the public health, safety, or general welfare of the public or if a zoning decision constitutes an unreasonable, arbitrary exercise of police power. If the governing body of a municipality does not serve as the board of adjustment, the body may provide that the decisions of the board on matters within its jurisdiction are final subject to judicial review or are final subject to appeal to the governing body. The measure specifies that land use applications shall not be based solely upon the presence, numbers, or

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magnitude of opposition or protests in the absence of objective and relevant facts. Municipal platting decisions are quasi-judicial in nature. The planning commission and the governing body of a municipality shall have reasonable discretion to determine the compliance of preliminary and final plats with the municipality adopted subdivision regulations and all applicable codes and ordinances. If the planning commission and governing body determine the proposed plat is in compliance with the adopted subdivision code, and meets all applicable ordinances, and the governing body and planning commission accept any proposed dedications, if applicable, the plat shall be approved. Compliance with comprehensive plans shall not be a requirement for plat approval. In the case of a preliminary or final plat denial, if requested by the applicant at the meeting on the vote, the city attorney or contracted counsel shall identify on the record the basis for the denial, including at a minimum all of the applicable objective and relevant facts upon which the denial is based.

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 30 to 14. It now moves to the House.

**Special Election Dates:** [SB 652](#) by Pro Tempore Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) and Rep. Mike Osburn (R-Edmond) modifies the dates for elections for any purpose can be held by any county, school district, technology center school district, municipality, fire protection district, or other political subdivision. The bill limits the Governor on the dates in which a special election can be called. However, if a vacancy has occurred in the office of the US Representative, State Senator, or State Representative, or in the event of a declared national or state emergency that requires a special election, the Governor may also call a special election as authorized by law on the following dates: second Tuesday in January in any year; first Tuesday of March in any year; first Tuesday of May in an odd-numbered year; second Tuesday of July in an odd-number year; second Tuesday of September in an odd-numbered year; first Tuesday of October in an odd-numbered year; and first Tuesday of December in any year. These dates apply to any election held after January 1, 2026.

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 47 to 0. It now moves to the House.

**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 on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 38 to 7. It now moves to the House.

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

The bill passed the Senate on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 38 to 8. It now moves to the House.

**Zoning/Capitol-Medical Center Improvement and Zoning District:** [SB 717](#) by Sen. Nikki Nice (D-OKC) and Rep. Jason Lowe (D-OKC) expands the boundaries of the Capitol-Medical Center Improvement and Zoning District to Northeast Fiftieth Street. The Capitol-Medical Center Improvement and Zoning Commission shall have exclusive authority over the zoning and regulation of all property zoned commercial, public district or health center within the district. No improvement

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shall be made upon any land in the area unless approved by the Commission.

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

**Right to Assemble: [SB 743](#)** by Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) and Rep. Mark Lawson (R-Sapulpa) establishes a maximum fine of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and/or a term of imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed one (1) year if a person who is convicted of willfully disturbing, interrupting, or disquieting any assemblage of people met for religious worship. A person convicted of a second or subsequent offense shall be guilty of a felony and shall be subject to a maximum fine of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) and/or a term of imprisonment in custody of DOC not to exceed two (2) years. The bill expands the crime of willfully disturbing, interrupting, or disquieting any assemblage of people met for religious worship to include protests and demonstrations without proper licensure by the proper authorities.

The bill passed the Senate on Thursday with the title restored by a [vote](#) of 43 to 4. It now moves to the House.

**Architectural & Licensed Interior Designs Act: [SB 751](#)** by Sen. Jack Stewart (R-Yukon) and Rep. Nicole Miller (R-Edmond) 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 on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 46 to 1. It now moves to the House.

**Personal Injury Suits/Medical Bills: [SB 833](#)** by Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) and Rep. Mark Tedford (R-Tulsa) modifies the standards used to calculate injury in a civil case. The bill provides that evidence shall be presented to the court to show the reasonable value of the treatment provided to the injured party instead of the amount billed to the injured party. The amount shall be limited to the

amounts actually necessary to satisfy the financial obligation for medical services or treatment rendered to the plaintiff that have been incurred but not yet satisfied. Such standards should also apply to the necessary future treatment of the injured party. Additionally, if the reimbursement rate is allowed by any health insurance covering the injured party or any public or government-sponsored health care benefit program for which the injured party is eligible. If the injured party is not covered by any health insurance and is not eligible for coverage under any private, public or government-sponsored health care benefit, the court shall use the Medicare reimbursement rate.

The bill passed the Senate on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 29 to 18. It now moves to the House.

**Law Enforcement/Eluding Officers: [SB 871](#)** by Sen. Aaron Reinhardt (R-Jenks) and Rep. John George (R-Newalla) adds the crime of causing an accident, while eluding or attempting to elude an officer, that results in great bodily injury to the list of eighty-five percent (85%) crimes. Any person convicted of eluding an officer and causing an accident resulting in great bodily injury to any other person shall receive an increased minimum sentence. The minimum sentence is increased from one (1) year to five (5) years and the maximum sentence is increased from five (5) years to seven (7) years.

The bill passed the Senate on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 36 to 8. It now moves to the House.

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

The bill passed the Senate on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 35 to 12. It now moves to the House.

**Local Bid Preference: [SB 1014](#)** by Sen. Jack Stewart (R-Yukon) and Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) requires political subdivisions awarding construction contracts exceeding One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) or construction management trade contracts or subcontracts exceeding Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to give preferences to

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local bids of not more than five percent (5%) instead of authorizing such preferences.

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 38 to 7. It now moves to the House.

**Insurance/Ambulance Coverage:** [SB 1067](#) by Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) and Rep. Preston Stinson (R-Edmond) 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 provides that the minimum rates shall be the least of the rate submitted to the Department or two hundred seventy-five percent (275%) of the current published rate for ambulance services as established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The bill passed the Senate on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 38 to 9. It now moves to the House.

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

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