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April 18, 2025

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ONE STEP CLOSER TO DEADLINE

We are one step closer to the next deadline of April 24th and our Open Records Request bill is continuing to progress. This week it passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee yesterday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

(OML PRIORITY) Open Records Requests: [SB 535](#) by Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) and Rep. Daniel Pae (R-Lawton) 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.

As the committee deadline approaches next week, there will be many committees that plan to meet more than once to meet the deadline. We will be on the lookout for those bills that may negatively impact your municipality. Please be ready should we issue an Action Alert. We succeed when we speak with a united voice.

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

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PERB BILL IN SENATE JUDICIARY

Despite the Senate Judiciary Committee agenda not yet posted, OML believes that [HB 1424](#) by Rep. Mike Kelley (R-Yukon) and Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) will be heard this week. This bill 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.

BILLS ON THE MOVE:

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. Mobile food vendors must follow all state and local laws and regulations that govern operations and are not in conflict with this act. A mobile food vendor must provide a copy of its state licensure to a local authority before operating in that jurisdiction. The local authority must recognize a lawful state license and authorize the mobile food vendor to operate in their jurisdiction. Following this, a mobile food vendor may operate at any location allowed by the local authority and on private property under the listed circumstances. Mobile food vendors must not operate in any manner that will interfere with either foot or vehicle traffic and cannot operate in a state park without a contract or lease agreement. A mobile food vendor must, when operating, maintain a food vending vehicle in good condition, provide a waste

receptacle, remove and dispose of all refuse within a 25 foot radius of the vehicle, display their food establishment license in a conspicuous location, and notify the State Department of Health and the local authority within 10 days if serving food at a mass gathering. The State Commissioner of Health may promulgate rules to enforce this measure provided that the rules do not address certain exceptions in the measure. 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 operating without a license or with a suspended or revoked license. A person aggrieved by a decision from the State Department of Health following a hearing has the right to appeal. This act does not require a local authority to adopt a program that regulates mobile food vendors or to revise its existing program and it does not impede any state investigations of food-borne illness. The measure adds several relevant definitions to state statute. A mobile food vendor operating in a county governed by a city-county health department must obtain a local food establishment license.

The bill passed the Senate Health & Human Services Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 3. The bill moves to the full 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 with the enacting clause stricken the Senate Aeronautics & Transportation Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 5. The bill moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

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

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

Law Enforcement/Use of Service Animal: [HB 1178](#) by Rep. Marilyn Stark (R-Bethany) and Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) makes it a crime for an individual who does not have a disability or is not trained to assist individuals with a disability, from using a service animal in an attempt to gain treatment or benefits as an individual with a disability, upon conviction, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 5 to 2. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Municipal Utilities/Revenue Restrictions: [HB 1220](#) by Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) and Sen. Lisa Standridge (R-Norman) prohibits any municipality from imposing any franchise fee on the

securitization revenue stream, any bond indenture related to the obligations issued by the Oklahoma Development Finance Authority, or any order of the Corporation Commission authorizing an affected public utility to impose charges that constitute the securitization revenue stream as they relate to the February 2021 Unregulated Utility Consumer Protection Act. The bill prohibits any municipality from imposing any sales tax, use tax, or any other tax on such securitization revenue streams.

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

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

The bill passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the full 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 the Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 21 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

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 Senate Appropriations Committee with the title stricken on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 17 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

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

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

Business Courts/OK & Tulsa Counties: [HB 1562](#) by Rep. Collin Duel (R-Guthrie) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) creates a business court division

within the district court of any judicial district containing a municipality with a population in excess of five hundred thousand (500,000). Each business court division created shall hereinafter be categorized and named numerically. Business Court Division I shall be located in OK County and Business Court Division II shall be located in Tulsa County. The bill establishes the Joint Committee on Judicial Vacancy Appointments that will be responsible for providing a list of five nominees to the Governor for consideration for a business court judge appointment. The committee will be made up of ten (10) members appointed by the Speaker and President Pro Tempore of the Senate; eight (8) of the members will be from the majority party and two (2) will be from the minority party. The business court judges have eight (8) year terms. The bill also outlines the qualifications to serve as a business court judge. Qualifications include being at least thirty-five (35) years of age, being a United States citizen and having at least ten (10) or more years of civil litigation experience. Lastly, the measure outlines the authority, jurisdiction and filing fees for the business courts. Cases under the purview of a business court must have a minimum claim amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) and must be resolved within twelve (12) months unless an extension is requested by the disputing parties. The Supreme Court is authorized to provide for electronic filing. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall promulgate rules for the filing of documents transmitted by electronic device.

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

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

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

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

from ninety (90) days to up to six (6) months in the county jail.

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

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

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

The bill passed the Senate Local & County Government on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 2. The bill moves to the full 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 may be utilized, which shall include, but not limited

to, pump and irrigation monitoring telemetry devices capable of reporting usage. Such measuring systems must 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. They may not exceed their permitted amount by over two hundred percent (200%) in any of the five (5) years. This does not apply to domestic wells.

The bill passed the Senate Energy Committee with the enacting clause stricken on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 1. The bill moves to the full 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 a stricter fire requirement than those outlined in the 2018 International Residential Code on the family and large childcare homes.

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

OK Urban Agriculture Cost-Share Program: [HB 1910](#) by Rep. Arturo Alonso-Sandoval (D-OKC) and Sen. Nikki Nice (D-OKC) creates the Oklahoma Urban Agriculture Cost-Share Program within the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to provide

monies to eligible people for the purpose of promoting sustainable urban agricultural practices, improving food security, and enhancing green spaces in Oklahoma's urban areas.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with the title clause stricken on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 22 to 0. The bill moves to the full 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 Senate Public Safety Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the full 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 Senate Business & Insurance Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the full 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 any 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 Senate Business & Insurance Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Elections/Political Subdivisions: [HB 2106](#) by Rep. Mike Osburn (R-Edmond) and Pro Tempore Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) modifies authorized election dates conducted by county election boards. The bill provides that the board may hold an election on the third Tuesday of June, the fourth Tuesday of August, and the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November. Special elections called by the Governor shall be limited to the second Tuesday of January in any year, the first Tuesday of March in any year, the first Tuesday of May in an odd-numbered year, the second Tuesday of July in an odd-numbered year, the second Tuesday of September in an odd-numbered year, the first Tuesday of October in an odd-numbered year, and the second Tuesday of December in any year. Elections called on the second Tuesday of December may only be called once every 4 years. The provisions of this bill shall take effect on elections after held after January 1, 2026.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 0. The bill moves to the full 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 Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 22 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

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

The bill passed the Senate Business & Insurance Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Newspapers/Publication of Notices: [HB 2167](#) by Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) and Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) increases the fees that a newspaper can charge for publishing legal notices. For the first insertion of a notice, the per word fee is increased from fifteen cents (\$0.15) to twenty-two cents (\$0.22). For subsequent insertions, the fee is

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

The bill passed the Senate Business & Insurance Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Texting While Driving: [HB 2263](#) by Rep. Nicole Miller (R-Edmond) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) prohibits the operator of a motor vehicle from using or holding of a hand-held electronic cellular device in school zone or work zone when workers are present. The provisions do not apply if

a person is using the cellular telephone or electronic communication device: in conjunction with hands-free or voice-operated technology; or for the sole purpose of communicating with in an imminent emergency situation. Municipalities may enact and municipal police officers may enforce ordinances prohibiting and penalizing such conduct. The ordinances may not be more stringent than state law; and the total fine and court costs for municipal ordinance violations shall not exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00). DPS may not assess points for violation and law enforcement is prohibited from confiscating or extracting information from the cellular device without consent.

The bill passed the Senate Technology & Telecommunications Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the full 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 Senate Health & Human Services Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the full 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 a grant, a Main Street shall apply to Commerce. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment. 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 a Main Street, they will be removed from any opportunities to receive grant. No Main Street that applies for the grant will depend upon future awarded funds for operations, but in any year awarded, funds may go towards any cost associated with their operations.

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

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

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 House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 29 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

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 House Appropriations Committee with the enacting clause stricken on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 25 to 2. The bill moves to the full 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 House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 1. The bill moves to the full 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 House Appropriations Committee with the enacting clause stricken on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 24 to 3. The bill moves to the full House.

Law Enforcement/CLEET Director: [SB 91](#) by Sen. Tom Woods (R-Westville) and Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) modifies the qualifications of the Executive Director of CLEET by removing the requirement that a person must possess a bachelor's degree in law enforcement. The bill requires the appointee to possess a minimum of ten (10) years of experience in the field of law enforcement as a supervisor or a minimum of five (5) years of experience in law enforcement and a degree from a four-year college in law enforcement administration, law, criminology, or related science.

The bill passed the House Appropriations Committee with the title restored on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 24 to 1. The bill moves to the full 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 House Commerce & Economic Development Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 4. The bill moves to the full Senate.

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 House Energy & Natural Resources Oversight Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

Water/Groundwater Permits/Medical Marijuana: [SB 133](#) by Sen. George Burns (R-Pollard) and Rep. John George (R-Newalla) requires that any person who intends to use groundwater shall apply to OWRB for an appropriate permit. Any person intending to use groundwater for a medical marijuana grow facility shall present to OWRB a valid medical marijuana commercial grower license issued by OMMA.

The bill passed the House Energy & Natural Resources Oversight Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

Real Estate Contracts: [SB 198](#) by Sen. Michael Brooks (D-OKC) and Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) authorizes a municipality, county and state the ability to enter into a real estate contract for the sale, conveyance, or exchange of real property, option to purchase real property, or a lease with an option to purchase real property may include a contingency, not to exceed one hundred eighty (180) days, for the primary purposes of securing required permits, lot changes, zoning changes, and any other land use approvals necessary to use and operate the real property.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the full 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 House Energy & Natural Resources Oversight Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

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 House Education Oversight Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the full 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 House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

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

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 House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the full 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 House Government Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the full 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 House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the full 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 transit vehicles" to include buses, vans, cars, railcars, locomotives, trolley cars, ferry boats and vehicles used for transporting the public services. The bill makes it a crime to intimidate, threaten, assault, or batter any driver, attendant, guard, or passenger of any rolling stock transit vehicle or cause disruption to the provided service or cause harm to any person. The bill lays out the penalties.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the full 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 House Health & Human Services Oversight Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

OK Local Development & Enterprise Zone Incentive Leverage Act: [SB 575](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) and Rep. Daniel Pae (R-Lawton) requires the enterprise or entity to provide consent for the Department of Commerce to furnish the reported information to the Incentive Evaluation Commission (IEC) only for evaluation purposes by the IEC or a designee. The information furnished shall be disaggregated and on a per project basis.

The bill passed the House Commerce & Economic Development Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 14 to 2. The bill moves to the full Senate.

OK Quality Events Incentive Act: [SB 578](#) by Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) and Rep. Mike Kelley (R-Yukon) extends the Oklahoma Quality Events Incentive Act through June 30, 2031.

The bill passed the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 25 to 2. The bill moves to the full 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 House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 27 to 0. The bill moves to the full 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 House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

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

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 3. The bill moves to the full 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 also authorizes the Governor to be limited 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, beginning in December of 2025, and every four years thereafter. These dates apply to any election held after January 1, 2026.

The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 16 to 0. The bill moves to the full 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 House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the full 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 a 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 House Commerce & Economic Development Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 14 to 3. The bill moves to the full House.

Airport Construction Program: [SB 730](#) by Sen. Kelly Hines (R-OKC) and Rep. Nicole Miller (R-Edmond) requires the Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics to develop and adopt a five-year Airport Construction Program on an annual basis which lists federal and state funding that the Department has available for the development of airport infrastructure. The Department shall involve public input during the development of the Program and coordinate and receive input from the airports within the statewide airport system plan. The Department shall set realistic project delivery schedules to maintain integrity and to minimize air transportation disruption. A project must have been included in the five-year Program and be at an airport that is included in the most current version of the statewide airport system plan to receive financial assistance.

The bill passed the House Commerce & Economic Development Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 16 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

Criminal Disturbance: [SB 743](#) by Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) and Rep. Mark Lawson (R-Sapulpa) describes acts which constitute disturbance of a religious meeting to include knowingly obstructing, detaining, hindering, impeding, or blocking the entry of another person to or exit from a place where such meeting is held; and knowingly approaching another person within eight (8) feet of such person, unless the other person consents, for the purpose of passing a leaflet or handbill to, displaying a sign to, or engaging in oral protest, education, or counseling with such other person in the public way or sidewalk area within a radius of one hundred (100) feet from any entrance door to a place where the meeting is held. The bill also modifies the punishment for disturbing a religious meeting by providing a fine of not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), imprisonment for up to one (1) year in the county jail or both fine and imprisonment. A second or subsequent offense is a felony, punishable by a fine of up to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), imprisonment in

DOC for up to two (2) years or both fine and imprisonment.

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

Law Enforcement/Driving Under Influence: [SB 786](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Rep. John George (R-Newalla) prohibits a person from consuming marijuana or inhaling secondhand medical marijuana smoke due to another person's consumption of medical marijuana while operating a motor vehicle on a public highway, street or alley. A person operating a motor vehicle on a public highway, street or alley shall not possess any open container that contains marijuana in the passenger area of the motor vehicle. Any person convicted of violating this section shall in addition to any fine imposed, pay a special assessment trauma-care fee of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) to be deposited in the Trauma Care Assistance Revolving Fund.

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

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

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

The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 15 to 0. The bill moves to the full 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 House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee with the title stricken on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the full 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 House Government Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 16 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Aerospace Infrastructure: [SB 920](#) by Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) and Rep. Nicole Miller (R-Edmond) defines "heliport" and "VTOL aircraft". The bill requires a permit to build or modify any building that would exceed the federal obstruction standards within a one-nautical mile radius of the geographic

center of a publicly owned heliport or vertiport. The Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics is given the authority to develop a statewide network of UAS/AAM detection systems and to create a statewide or regional command and radar system to support the UAS/AAM detection systems. The Department is authorized to enter into partnerships with the federal government for the purpose of investing in and operating UAS/AAM infrastructure in the state.

The bill passed the House Commerce & Economic Development Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 16 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

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 House Health & Human Services Oversight Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

Law Enforcement/DUI/Bail Denial: [SB 981](#) by Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Bristow) and Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) authorizes the denial of bail for an individual who has previously been convicted with

two (2) felonies for driving under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicating substances.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the full 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 local bids of not more than five percent (5%) instead of authorizing such preferences.

The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 14 to 1. The bill moves to the full 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 House Rules Committee with the title stricken on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

NEXT WEEK AT THE CAPITOL

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

Monday, April 21, 2025

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

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.

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

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

Firearms/Municipal Carry Act: [HB 1095](#) by Rep. Derrick Hildebrant (R-Catoosa) and Sen. Christi Gillespie (R-Broken Arrow) creates the Municipal Carry Act. The bill authorizes the governing body of a city or town to authorize the concealed carry of handguns into any building or office space that is owned or leased by a city or town, except those listed in paragraph 2 of this subsection. Elected officials of a municipality, as well as municipal employees approved by the governing body may carry a concealed handgun when acting in the performance of their duties within municipal buildings that are within the jurisdiction of the elected official or municipal employee. A firearm may not be present inside a firearm-prohibited location which includes: any building or office space on municipally owned or leased property designated as a firearm-prohibited location, 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. Any municipal judge who is in possession of a valid handgun license may carry when acting in the course and scope of employment

within the courthouse of the municipality that is within the jurisdiction of the municipal judge. Nothing shall in this law require an elected official or designated employees of the municipality to carry a firearm as a condition of employment or service with the municipality.

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 is less than Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) can be punished by imprisonment up to five (5) years in DOC or in the county jail for a term not to exceed one (1) year, 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 to continue to June 1, 2026. The members that are currently serving will automatically continue. The bill authorizes the Attorney General to staff the task force. The Office of 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 related to organized crime.

Law Enforcement/Shopping Carts: [HB 1689](#) by Rep. Rande Worthen (R-Lawton) 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.

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.

House Government Oversight Committee

10:30 p.m., Room 206

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 "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.

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.

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.

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.

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.