

15-25

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OPEN RECORDS MOVES TO GOVERNOR'S DESK

On Thursday, the Senate accepted the House amendments to [SB 535](#) by Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) and Rep. Daniel Pae (R-Lawton) by a [vote](#) of 38 to 4. OML has worked all Session to get this bill to Governor Stitt's desk.

SB 535 amends the Open Records Act to provide uniformity, streamline and clearly outline the process for both the custodian and the requestor while ensuring transparency in government. We worked closely with the Oklahoma Press Association on this bill.

Here are a few bullet points stating what the bill does:

- Fire marshals are added to the definition of law enforcement to clarify that fire marshals are law enforcement when they are acting as fire marshals on behalf of the law enforcement department for the purposes of open records.
- A deposit system is introduced for requests with estimated fees over Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00), or if the requester has outstanding fees from previous requests.
- Language is added to clarify that a municipality or other public body may require an individual requesting records to fill out a records request form.
- A new process is made for how a public body engages and works with open record requests that are not reasonably specific. This language allows a public body to attempt to work with the requestor if the request is not reasonably specific or lacks a general time frame in which the records were created.

Once the bill has been sent to the Governor, he will have 5 days (excluding Sunday) to sign or veto the legislation, or it will become law without his signature. Thank you again to everyone for reaching out to your Legislators to discuss this bill.

BUDGET DEAL ANNOUNCED

The Governor, Senate and House on Wednesday announced that they have a budget deal. The budget deal includes a cut to the state income tax rate of 0.25 percent.

The tax cut agreement also eliminates the three lowest tax brackets, going from 3 to 6, and will include a “path to zero” revenue-increase trigger which is still being negotiated.

According to Senate staff, a family of four with an income of \$50,000 would save about \$137 a year.

The budget agreement keeps most state agency budgets flat. Common Education will see an increase. Public schools will get \$3.98 billion, up from \$3.86 billion.

The big-ticket items being funded are:

- \$250 million for a new College of Veterinary Medicine at Oklahoma State University;
- \$312 million to purchase a private prison in Lawton that houses over 2,000 prisoners;
- \$200 million for a new pediatric heart hospital operated by the University of Oklahoma; and
- \$41.6 million for the Oklahoma National Guard for modernization and deferred maintenance projects.

After many meetings, the Department of Mental Health finally came up with a number of \$31 million that they will need for a supplemental appropriation to get them through this fiscal year.

GOVERNOR VETOES MULTIPLE BILLS

Governor Stitt continued vetoing bills this week.

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 Governor stated in his [veto message](#) that while we all might agree that an animal mislabeled as a service animal is frustrating, criminalizing the practice is an overreaction. There are other ways to address this issue without adding more criminal statutes to our code.

Open Records Act/Public Access Counselor/AG's Office: [HB 2163](#) by Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) creates in the Attorney General's office a Public Access Counselor Unit. Any person whose request to inspect or copy a public record is denied by a public body, except the Legislature and committees, commissions, and agencies thereof, may file a request for review with the Public Access Counselor not later than thirty (30) days after the date of the final denial. The request for review must be in writing, signed by the requester, and include: a copy of the request for access to records and any response from the public body. A person who makes the request for commercial purposes may not file a request for review. If the public body treats the request for review as a commercial purpose, the individual may file a request with the Public Access Counselor to review whether the public body properly determined the request. The Public Access Counselor must forward a copy of the request for the public body to review within seven (7) business days after receiving receipt and specify the records or other documents that the public body shall furnish to facilitate the review. If the public body fails to respond, the AG may issue a subpoena to any person or public body having knowledge of or records pertaining to a request for review of a denial of access to records. There is a process for extending the time by the Public Access Counselor with notification to the requester and public body. The opinion shall be binding upon both the requester and the public body. Upon receipt of the binding opinion, the public body must either take the necessary action to comply or file suit in the proper district court. The AG may also issue advisory opinions to public bodies regarding compliance with this act.

The Governor stated in his [veto message](#) this bill grants the Attorney General sweeping and unchecked authority to access records from any state agency, board, commission, or independently elected official—including confidential and privileged documents. That kind of power is unprecedented in Oklahoma and would undermine the balance of power among independently elected offices. Under this law, the Attorney General could demand internal records and attorney-client communications from agencies—even in cases where he is suing or investigating them. That creates a dangerous conflict of interest. For example, the current Attorney General has sued the Statewide Charter School Board, an entity he previously represented. If this bill became law, he could compel the board to hand over privileged information, giving him an unfair advantage in ongoing litigation. No office should be allowed to stack the deck in its own favor. Oklahomans have several effective tools to ensure transparency and accountability in government. Public records laws and the courts provide a neutral, fair process to review and resolve disputes over access to information. This bill bypasses that process and concentrates too much power in one office.

Texting While Driving: [HB 2263](#) by Rep. Nicole Miller (R-Edmond) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) prohibited 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 Governor stated in the [veto message](#) that while our kids' safety is our number priority, but a complicated patchwork of laws makes it harder to keep them safe. Oklahoma has already criminalized texting and driving, regardless of location. We should enforce the laws already on the books instead of adding new laws.

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.

The Governor stated in the [veto message](#) much like a SB 580, which I vetoed last year, SB 333 would allow local public housing authorities to operate statewide for construction and rehabilitation projects, expanding their reach—and their eminent domain powers—far beyond their local jurisdictions. This threatens private property rights and undermines local control. Housing authorities exist to meet local needs under local oversight. Broadening their authority statewide risks confusion, overreach, and less effective service to the communities they were created to serve. Government should not insert itself into private industry to dictate housing needs across the state.

Political Subdivision Opioid Abatement Grants: [SB 574](#) by Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Cynthia Roe (R-Lindsay) added 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 Governor stated in the [veto message](#) that this bill would expand the Attorney General's discretionary authority over settlement agreements in opioid-related litigation. This would hand even more power to someone who has repeatedly demonstrated his willingness to abuse it. It paves the way for him to further entrench his "sue-and-settle" strategy, a tactic that favors his political allies over the best interests of the State, not unlike the approach we've seen from Biden's EPA and DOJ. Moreover, it opens the door for the Attorney General to divert funds earmarked for opioid abatement projects—money that should be going to the General Revenue Fund and to a tax cut. Since taking office, he has already increased his budget by 68%, and he's also asking for an astonishing 204% more next year. This bill is just his latest attempt to expand his office and consolidate power. I won't stand for it.

Firearms/Shooting into Buildings: [SB 631](#) by Pro Tempore Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) and Rep. John George (R-Newalla) added 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 (85%) of imprisonment.

The Governor stated in his [veto message](#) that SB 631 would add the crime of discharging a firearm at or into a building to the list of offenses requiring 85% of a sentence to be served before becoming parole eligible—even when no one is inside or harmed. While this is potentially serious conduct, it differs fundamentally from crimes like murder, rape, or lewd molestation of a child, which justify the 85% rule because they directly threaten or take human life. Oklahoma already punishes discharging a firearm at or into a building as a felony with up to twenty years in prison. Mandating 85% of time for cases that may involve no victim senselessly increases the burden on our criminal justice system, raises incarceration costs, and limits opportunity for reform.

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

The Governor stated in the [veto message](#) that the current municipality annexation and detachment law is fine how it is— it rightly requires approval from three-fourths (3/4) of registered voters and property owners in the area. This bill would block detachment even with that support, undermining local democracy and inviting unnecessary interference from the Capitol.

Local Bid Preference: [SB 1014](#) by Sen. Jack Stewart (R-Yukon) and Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) required 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 Governor stated in his [veto message](#) that I agree with the premise that we should prefer local Oklahoma companies, all else equal, but this is already allowed under the law as localities may give those companies preferential treatment. This bill would take away flexibility in the bidding process. We should continue to allow localities flexibility so that they can pick companies who can give them the best services for the best price. If this bill becomes law, it would reduce competition and qualified bidders and ultimately hurt consumers.

GOVERNOR SIGNS BILLS

Obscene Material/Preemption: [HB 1217](#) by Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) and Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) makes it unlawful for a person to engage in an adult performance which contains obscene material, or for any political subdivision of this state to allow, permit, organize, or authorize the viewing of an adult performance which contains obscene material, on public property or in a public place where a minor, as part of the general public, will be exposed to view such adult performance. A political subdivision acting in good faith in accordance with the requirements of this subsection shall not be liable for the acts of an individual or group in violation of this act. Any person who is convicted and found guilty is a misdemeanor subject to up to one (1) year in a county jail or by a fine of not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or both. The provisions of this section shall preempt any ordinance, regulation or restriction that was lawfully adopted or license that was issued by a political subdivision.

The bill went into effect on May 9, 2025.

Law Enforcement/Child Endangerment: [HB 1731](#) by Rep. Anthony Moore (R-Clinton) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) modifies when a person commits child endangerment by adding impaired while transporting or having a child in the vehicle.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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 goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

BILLS BECOME LAW WITHOUT SIGNATURE

While the Governor's pen was busy signing and vetoing bills, multiple bills became law when they were sent to the Secretary of State without his signature.

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

The bill went into effect on May 11, 2025.

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 goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

Conservation Commission/Spring Creek Watershed Study: [HB 1588](#) by Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) and Sen. Tom Woods (R-Westville)

creates the Spring Creek Watershed Study to be used to direct implementation of voluntary, incentive-based conservation practices by the Conservation Commission in partnership with other local, state, and federal agencies and subject to availability of resources, in the Spring Creek watershed to protect and improve the aquatic habitat and water quality in the area.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

Assault & Battery Punishment: [HB 1595](#) by Rep. John George (R-Newalla) 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 goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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 goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

Public Highways: [SB 375](#) by Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) and Rep. Ronny Johns (R-Ada) allows officers of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to police and set speed limits on roads located on lands owned by a state beneficiary public trust if the trust has entered into an interlocal agreement with the Commissioner of Public Safety to allow DPS to police these roads. The bill also allows a state beneficiary public trust to pass a resolution to close, reopen, or re-close the public use of its roadway if the roadway is not located within the boundaries of a municipality and is not designated for public use. Such closure shall not leave any property owned by

the trust without contiguous access to a roadway, whether a public right-of-way or a roadway owned by the trust. If a roadway is closed and the right to reopen the roadway is foreclosed by the district court of the county where the road is located shall be permanent and not subject to reopen.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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 goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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 goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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 goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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 goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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 goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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 went into effect on May 11, 2025.

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 goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

BILLS MOVE TO GOVERNOR'S DESK

Failure to Yield: [HB 1022](#) by Rep. Ken Luttrell (R-Ponca City) and Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) provides for any person convicted of failure to yield a right-of-way and who causes a serious bodily injury as a result of such violation may, in addition to any other fine or penalty, be assessed a fee in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to be deposited in the Motorcycle Safety and Education Program Revolving Fund. For the purposes of this section, a serious bodily injury is an injury that is serious in nature but does not quite rise to the level of injury of great bodily injury or a fatality. In addition to the fee, the court may impose additional penalties, including: a remedial driving course; a loss of driver's license for ninety (90) days; or a payment of restitution.

The House accepted the Senate amendments on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 77 to 8. It moved to the Governor's desk on Thursday.

(OML Priority) 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.

The House accepted the Senate amendments on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 70 to 15. It moved to the Governor's desk on Thursday.

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.

The House accepted the Senate amendments on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 83 to 1. It moved to the Governor's desk on Thursday.

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 creates an income tax credit equal to the unreimbursed cost incurred by a firefighter for the cost of medical procedures to detect any form of cancer beginning in tax year 2026. The individual credit is capped at Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) per taxable year, incurred by a firefighter for the cost of medical procedures to detect any form of cancer. The credit may be carried forward up to five (5) years. The bill caps statewide awards for the credit at One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000.00) per year.

The House accepted the Senate amendments on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 82 to 0. It now moves to the Governor's desk.

(OML Priority) Law Enforcement/Dual Office Holding: [HB 2083](#) by Rep. Jason Blair (R-Moore) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) adds an exemption for dual office holding for a campus police officer who is elected as a member of the governing board of a town or municipality that is outside of the town or municipality where the person serves as a campus police officer.

The House accepted the Senate amendments on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 79 to 3. It now moves to the Governor's desk.

Law Enforcement/Surplus Property: [HB 2724](#) by Rep. Mark Chapman (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Julie McIntosh (R-Porter) allows OHP, pursuant to rules promulgated by OMES, to donate surplus

OHP vehicles driven over ninety thousand (90,000) miles to any law enforcement agency of any political subdivision in a county with a population of no more than one hundred thousand (100,000) residents. The use of such donated vehicles shall be limited to valid and authorized law enforcement efforts by the receiving agency.

The House accepted the Senate amendments on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 82 to 0. It now moves to the Governor's desk.

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

The Senate accepted the House amendments on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 38 to 2. It moved to the Governor's desk on Thursday.

BILLS ON THE MOVE:

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 has moved to conference. The House has assigned the bill to the Government Oversight Committee. The Senate conferees are as follows: Brooks, Daniels, Frix, Howard, Paxton and Stewart.

Sales Tax Exemption/Farming: [HB 1378](#) by Rep. Eddy Dempsey (R-Valliant) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) adds "farming" and "farm" to include the production of timber, seedling production, and forestry management.

The bill has moved to conference. The House has assigned it to GCCA. The Senate has also assigned it to GCCA.

Preemption/Pets: [HB 1421](#) by Rep. Josh West (R-Grove) and Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) provides that the Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (ODAFF) must send a written notice of the impending license expiration to the animal shelter operator or commercial pet breeder no later than ninety (90) days before the license expiration.

The bill has moved to conference. The House has assigned the bill to the Energy & Natural Resources Committee. The Senate conferees are as follows: Green, Grellner, Kern, Murdock, Nice, Pederson and Wingard.

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 has moved to conference. The House has assigned the bill to the Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee. The Senate conferees are as follows: Boren, Daniels, Gollihare, Howard, Jech, Paxton and Rosino.

Law Enforcement Records/Subpoenas: [HB 1563](#) by Rep. Collin Duel (R-Guthrie) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) provides that a subpoena issued on behalf of a defendant to a law enforcement agency, business, or commercial entity shall be subject to certain provisions. Such subpoena may compel a law enforcement agency to produce body camera videos, vehicle-mounted camera videos, traffic camera videos, law enforcement incident reports, and a recording of the administration of a sobriety test. Commercial entities may be compelled to turn over the production of a recording in the possession of the business or commercial entity, which covers a reasonable period of time before, during, or after the commission of the criminal act alleged in a complaint, indictment, or information. Subpoenas compelling the production of the individual record of a person may be assessed as prescribed by state law. The bill establishes a maximum record copying fee of twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per page and a maximum amount of One Dollar (\$1.00) per copied page for a certified copy. The bill also establishes a maximum Twenty-five Dollar (\$25.00) fee for recordings. Subpoenaed law enforcement agencies may notify the defendant that the production of requested records may violate certain state laws outlined in the measure. Upon receipt of this notice, the defendant shall inform the law enforcement agency of the desire to receive the subpoenaed records with redactions and notify the law enforcement agency, and the prosecuting agency of the application made to the court of competent jurisdiction for the release of the unredacted or unobscured records and the date and time of hearing on the application. The issuing party is required to take reasonable steps to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on a person subject to the subpoena. The bill provides for a motion to be made on the subject of the subpoena to

quash the subpoena if it fails to provide such reasonable steps.

The bill has moved to conference. The House has assigned the bill to the Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee. The Senate conferees are as follows: Brooks, Gollihare, Howard, Jech, Rosino and Thompson.

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 be limited to, pump and irrigation monitoring telemetry devices capable of reporting usage. Such measuring systems should be in proper operating conditions at all times when groundwater is being produced. Data from the measuring system shall be utilized for the annual groundwater use report. Beginning January 1, 2026, a five-year flex allocation of groundwater usage based off the previously determined allocated annual use of the basin or subbasin. A five-year flex allocation shall not require a new permit for existing permit holders. An applicant for a five-year application shall be required to submit an annual usage report and pay the annual permit fee. A five-year flex allocation shall allow the permit holder to exceed the determined allocation in any of the five-year allocations, provided the applicant shall adhere to the cumulative maximum annual yield for the basin or subbasin over the five-year period. 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 has moved to conference. The House has assigned the bill to the Energy & Natural Resources Oversight Committee. The Senate conferees are as follows: Dossett, Frix, Green, Jech, Kern and Rader.

ODOT/Invasive Woody Species: [HB 1822](#) by Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) requires ODOT to establish and implement a program for the systematic identification, removal, and management of invasive woody species within

rights-of-way under its jurisdiction. The eradication program shall include the following components: surveys to identify the presence and extent of invasive woody species, develop a prioritized plan for eradication and control; use best management practices for removal; monitor and follow-up measures to prevent reestablishment; and collaborate with local, state, and federal agencies to leverage expertise and resources.

The bill has moved to conference. The House has assigned the bill to GCCA. The Senate has assigned the bill to GCCA.

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 has moved to conference. The House has assigned the bill to the Energy & Natural Resources Oversight Committee. The Senate has assigned the bill to GCCA.

Public Nuisances: [HB 2622](#) by Rep. Erick Harris (R-Edmond) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) makes the repeated use of any real property or structure to commit activities of unlawful drug distribution, prostitution, or human and/or sex trafficking as a public nuisance. The bill also deems that manufacturing, marketing and selling lawful products are not deemed a public nuisance. The bill also adds the remedy of seeking injunctive or other equitable relief. To be found liable in an action for public nuisance, the defendant must be determined by the court to have been in control of the conditions giving rise to the nuisance at the time of the injury. A private person may maintain an action for a public nuisance if the court finds clear and convincing evidence that the nuisance is the proximate cause of special injury to the private person.

The House has sent the bill to conference and assigned it to the Judiciary & Public Safety Committee. The bill is awaiting Senate conferees.

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 House has assigned the bill to GCCA. The Senate has assigned the bill to GCCA.

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 has moved to conference. The House has assigned the bill to the Energy & Natural Resources Oversight Committee. The Senate has assigned the bill to GCCA.

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 has moved to conference. The House has assigned the bill to the Energy & Natural Resources

Oversight Committee. The Senate has assigned the bill to GCCA.

Municipal Zoning/Planning Commission: [SB 647](#)

by Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) and Rep. Preston Stinson (R-Edmond) provides that while comprehensive plans are allowed to be used as a guide in the decision-making process, determinations shall be made in light of objective and relevant facts as well as utilizing processes and requirement outlined in the municipal code. The notice and hearing provisions may be applicable, 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. Information presented from the public that is neither objective or relevant shall not be determinative in land use application proceedings. The bill establishes that municipal zoning decisions are deemed valid unless the challenging party proves the ordinance lacks a substantial relation to public health, safety or general welfare of the public in light of objective and relevant facts, or if a zoning decision constitutes an arbitrary exercise of police power. The bill establishes that municipal platting decisions are quasi-judicial in nature and gives the planning commission and the governing body of a municipality the discretion to determine a plats compliance with regulations, codes, and ordinances. In the case of a preliminary or final plat denial, the city is required to identify the basis for denial. Governing bodies are prohibited from basing their decision making on presented information that is neither objective nor relevant.

The Senate rejected House amendments on Monday, May 12th and sent the bill to conference. The Senate has named the following Senators: Frix, Hamilton, Burns, Alvord, Weaver, Stanley and Nice. We are awaiting the House conference committee to be named.