

17-25

May 30, 2025

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CURTAIN CLOSES ON SESSION

The curtain has closed on the First Session of the 60th Legislature. After holding a vote open for over five hours for a veto override on Thursday, the Senate adjourned after midnight, while the House adjourned Sine Die Friday morning. The work this week revolved around finishing up budget bills, getting bills through the conference committee process, overriding vetoes and passing a resolution to fire the Commissioner of Mental Health.

While this Legislation Session has ended, the work will continue soon with Legislators filing interim study requests. The House has set June 27th with the approval deadline and assignment to committees on July 15th. The deadline for Senate Interim Studies has yet to be announced.

OML PRIORITY BECOMES LAW WITHOUT GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE

(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. The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

ANNEXATION BILL RUSHED TO PASSAGE

On Wednesday, the House and Senate both passed [HB 1166](#) by Rep. Mike Kelley (R-Yukon) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) modifies the annexation and detachment procedures by imposing stricter consent requirements and introducing new restrictions on property owners regarding future annexation after detachment. It aims to provide greater protection for property owners and enhance the procedural clarity of city and town territorial adjustments in both annexation with consent of the landowners and without the consent of the landowners.

The bill establishes that no municipality can annex more than ten percent (10%) of its current land area or eight (8) miles in one area at any time unless the city obtains written consent from the owners of at least sixty-five percent (65%) of the acres to be annexed and twenty-five percent (25%) of the population to be annexed. Municipalities are required to have a service extension plan included in the public notice that is published in the newspaper as well as mailed to all property owners in the proposed territory. If the extension of municipal services is not substantially completed within one hundred twenty months (120), the affected owners may petition a court of competent jurisdiction for enforcement of completion of the planned services or may bring a process for detachment.

If the municipality fails to detach a territory under the existing detachment law, then the majority of the annexed territory's registered voters can file a petition with the municipal clerk. If the municipality fails to detach within ninety (90) days of receipt of the filed petition, any of the petitioners can bring the petition to district court. The district court shall enter an order detaching the property if the court finds a valid petition was filed with the municipality if the municipality failed to perform its obligation in accordance with the service plan.

A new section is added for the situations where a municipality fails to reach the fifty percent (50%) thresholds of consent of owners or in situations where the 65% threshold is not met when the proposed annexed area is more than ten percent

(10%) of its current land area or eight (8) square miles. Under this new section, a municipality may annex territory without consent after petitioning a court if the territory is bordered by at least fifty percent (50%) of property within the municipal limits and if the governing board proves beyond a preponderance of evidence that the property owners will benefit more from the annexation than being detached. Owners can refute the benefits by showing lower current utility rates, sanitation rates, or trash rates offered by the municipality. For emergency services, property owners can show response time comparisons and costs of services. Municipalities are prohibited from annexing territory without consent more than once a year.

Also, a municipality cannot attach ad valorem taxes to an annexed area for a sinking fund to satisfy any judgment if the annexed area was not part of the municipality at the time of the judgment.

The House [voted](#) 87 to 2. The Senate [voted](#) 44 to 2 and the bill moved to the Governor's desk

GOVERNOR VETOES BILL

Governor Stitt continued vetoing bills this week.

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

The Governor stated in his [veto message](#) that eliminating the requirement for construction bidders to submit disclosure statements under oath weakens a straightforward but meaningful safeguard. Truthful bidding depends on accountability, and having sworn statements under oath is neither difficult nor burdensome. This change not only undermines transparency but also raises questions about who benefits from avoiding a sworn declaration.

VETO OVERRIDES

On Thursday, the Legislature took the majority of the day to take on Governor Stitt's vetoes. Out of the sixty-eight (68) vetoed bills, fifty (50) were up for consideration to be overridden. Forty-seven (47)

bills were successful in becoming law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

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 goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

CIB/Penalties: [HB 1216](#) by Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) and Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Wilson) adds roofing under CIB to regulate. The bill provides that any fines established by CIB for any second or subsequent violation of a law or rule to be set at five (5) times the amount of the fine set by the Board for initial violations. Collection of unpaid, finalized, administrative fines by the agency, directly or through contracted services unless otherwise provided in law, may be sought beginning ninety (90) days after final disposition and order of the matter through the processes established by this act and the APA.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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 until 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 bill goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

Municipal Code Lien Enforcement Act: [HB 2147](#) by Rep. Mike Lay (R-Jenks) and Sen. Brenda Stanley (R-Midwest City) creates the Municipal Code Lien Enforcement Act of 2025. It applies to any municipal governing body that adopts the provisions of this act and is applicable to the collection of municipal code liens as to real property, other than owner-occupied property, in the municipality. The bill allows for any fees, penalties, and abatement costs imposed on municipality's housing and building codes may be enforced in rem as a lien in accordance with this act, provided however, such enforcement shall not commence until the cumulative amount of fees, penalties, and abatement costs outstanding equals or exceed One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00). Municipalities may proceed with judicial in rem foreclosures of municipal code liens by an enactment of an ordinance or resolution of city in which the real property is located. This act does not constitute an action for personal liability for the municipal code liens against the owner or owners of real property. Rights and entities are authorized by law to enforce municipal ordinances. The bill allows a municipality that seeks to enforce a municipal code lien through the sale of real property shall utilize the judicial in rem dings may only be brought by the municipality. The bill establishes a timeframe for filing a petition for judicial in rem foreclosure for a municipal code lien. It also provides requirements for filing a s subject to unpaid taxes. Every municipal code lien shall be superior to all other liens, except those liens for taxes as described or reference in Section 3103 of Title 68.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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 bill went into effect on May 29, 2025.

Newspapers/Publication of Notices: [HB 2167](#) by Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) and Sen. Bill Colmeman (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 goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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 goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

Mobile Food Trucks/Fire Marshal: [HB 2459](#) by Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) and Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) requires all mobile food preparation vehicles that are capable of producing smoke or grease-laden vapors to be in compliance with the most current adopted fire code. This requirement shall extend to vehicles utilizing electric energy, liquefied petroleum gas, compressed natural gas, or a combination thereof for cooking. All mobile food preparation vehicles utilizing any liquefied petroleum gas system, equipment, container, apparatus, or appliance shall receive and maintain a permit from the Oklahoma Liquefied Petroleum Gas Administration in conjunction with the State Fire Marshal. Beginning January 1, 2026, the specific provisions outlined shall expire and such operators shall comply with the most current adopted fire code. Mobile food preparation vehicles shall be under the jurisdiction of the State Fire Marshal, who shall conduct inspections based on four (4) quadrants of the state and twice with each county with a population exceeding four hundred thousand (400,000). Nothing shall prevent a political subdivision from enforcing the event permits, operational fees, land use regulations, zoning, and other ordinances in relation to the operation of a mobile food preparation vehicle within the boundaries of the political subdivision. The State Fire Marshal may promulgate rules necessary to implement this act. Such rules shall have uniform force and effect throughout this state and no political subdivision or other agency shall enact or enforce any fire or life safety code-related ordinances, rules or the requirements for mobile food preparation vehicles, except in a county with a population exceeding four hundred thousand (400,000). The State Fire Marshal shall also issue an operational permit decal indicating that the vehicle meets the minimum fire and life code requirements.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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 goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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 goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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 goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

Sales Tax Rebate/Broadband: [SB 687](#) by Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) directs the rebate program to be administered by the Oklahoma Broadband Office (OBO) and the Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC). Beginning in calendar year 2025, rebates for sales and use tax paid for equipment purchased in calendar year 2025 and subsequent calendar years shall be filed with the OBO for the sales tax exemption relating to broadband equipment shall be allocated from the Oklahoma Broadband Rebate Revolving Fund. OBO shall approve or disapprove all claims for a rebate payment. The bill limits the liability of the state to make rebate payments to the amount in the fund. The bill appropriates Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000.00) to the account from the General Revenue Fund.

The bill goes into effect ninety (90) days after Sine Die.

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

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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 goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

GOVERNOR SIGNS BILLS

Court Fees: [HB 1460](#) by Rep. Tammy West (R-Bethany) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) removes the ability to assess and collect various fees on defendants. One of those fees is for the reimbursement to OSBI and any authorized law enforcement agency for cleaning up an illegal drug laboratory site and the ability to retain five percent (5%) of such monies in the Court Clerks Revolving Fund. The bill gives the courts flexibility to waive supervision fees. The bill removes the funding for the Impaired Driver Database. The bill requires the assessment for batterers conducted through a certified treatment program.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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; 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 goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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 to 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 goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

GTCA: [SB 1168](#) by Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) and Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Faxon) expands the definition of "employee" as it relates to the Governmental Tort Claims Act to include a public trust and any sole member not-for-profit corporation of the public trust and any sole member not-for-profit subsidiary of such corporation. The bill defines "occurrence" to mean a loss arising out of an accident or event or a continuous or repeated exposure to substantially the same general harmful conditions. All losses arising out of an accident or event or a continuous or repeated exposure to substantially the same general harmful conditions shall be deemed to have arisen out of one occurrence. Political subdivision is expanded to include public libraries. The bill increases the maximum liability the state or its political subdivisions shall be subject to from Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) as it relates to any claim or to any claimant who has more than one claim for loss of property arising out of a single act, accident, or occurrence. For any number of claims arising from loss of property or discomfort in nuisance claims arising out of a single act, accident, or occurrence, the amount is capped at Two Hundred Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$225,000.00) in counties with a population less than one hundred fifty thousand (150,000) and Two Hundred Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$275,000.00) in counties with a population greater than one hundred fifty thousand (150,000). In no

event shall the total liability of the state and its political subdivision for a claim for nuisance exceed Two Hundred Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$275,000.00) per occurrence. In no event shall the total liability of the state and its political subdivisions for a claim for nuisance exceed Two Hundred Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$275,000.00) per occurrence. In no event shall the total liability of the state and its political subdivisions for a claim arising from municipal sewer overflow exceed Two Hundred Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$275,000.00) per occurrence.

The maximum amount awarded to any claimant for a claim for any other loss arising out of a single act, accident, or occurrence is increased from One Hundred Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000.00) to Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) in counties with a population less than one hundred fifty thousand (150,000). The amount for awards given to individuals in counties with a population greater than one hundred fifty thousand (150,000) is increased from One Hundred Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000.00) to Three Hundred Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$375,000.00). The limits for awards relating to state mental health hospitals have increased from Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) to Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00). The bill caps aggregate awards arising from a single occurrence or accident at Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00). The total liability of a public trust hospital and physician who provides medical services on the premises of a public trust hospital that is located in a county with a population of fewer than seventy-five thousand (75,000) but who is not employed by such hospital, to not exceed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00). If the physician is employed by another group, the total limit of liability shall be the higher coverage. For claims within the scope of GTCA, the liability limits in this section for claims on or after the effective date of this act shall be adjusted beginning January 1, 2031, and every five (5) years thereafter for inflation to reflect the lesser percentage of CPI published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the US Department of Labor for such period or four percent (4%) in any five-year period.

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.

Law Enforcement/Statutory Rape: [HB 1003](#) by Rep. Jim Olsen (R-Roland) and Sen. Warren Hamilton (R-McCurtain) increases the age for statutory rape when the victim is under the age of sixteen (16) to eighteen (18) years of age. No one can be convicted of rape or rape by instrumentation with anyone sixteen (16) years of age or older, with his or her consent, unless the person is more than four (4) years older than the other person.

The bill went into effect on May 25, 2025.

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 bill goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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 bill goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

Public Nuisances: [HB 2622](#) by Rep. Erick Harris (R-Edmond) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) provides that the repeated use of any real property or structure to commit unlawful drug distribution, prostitution, violations of the Massage Therapy Practices Act, or human and/or sex trafficking acts shall constitute a public nuisance.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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

The bill went into effect on May 25, 2025.

OK Opioid Abatement Revolving Fund: [HB 2777](#) by Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Faxon) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) appropriates Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00) to be budgeted to the Opioid Lawsuit Settlement Fund (Fund 383). The bill also appropriates One Million Two Hundred Fifty-three Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-eight Dollars (\$1,253,658.00) to be distributed to the non-litigation subdivisions.

The bill goes into effect on July 1, 2025.

OWRB/ARPA Funds: [HB 2789](#) by Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Faxon) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) appropriates Three Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,300,000.00) to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) to cover increased projects costs related to Pandemic Relief Funding, as well as appropriates Six Million Six Hundred Twenty-five Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-one Dollars and Forty-eight Cents (\$6,625,661.48) to OWRB to complete projects that did not receive funds in the grants program. The bill also creates the State Recovery Special Account for the OWRB for each of the aforementioned appropriations, provides that the OWRB cannot spend more than four percent (4%) of the funds on administrative

costs, and requires the OWRB to submit quarterly report to the Legislature on its expenditures and contracts.

The bill goes into effect on July 1, 2025.

Commerce/PREP Funds: [HB 2794](#) by Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Faxon) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) appropriates the following funds from the Progressing Rural Economic Prosperity Fund to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce: • Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) to fund a municipal park located in a county with a population greater than seven hundred fifty thousand (750,000) and north of I-344 and west of I-35. • Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000.00) to relocate a naval submarine located east of State Highway 165 and north of State Highway 62; and • One Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,800,000.00) for infrastructure improvements at an industrial park located south of State Highway 62 and east of State Highway 283.

The bill goes into effect ninety (90) days after Sine Die.

OK Ethics Commission/Political Subdivisions Enforcement Fund: [HB 2795](#) by Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Faxon) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) increases the funding cap for the Ethics Commission's "Political Subdivisions Enforcement Fund" from One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) to Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$450,000.00).

The bill went into effect on May 29, 2025.

OK Disaster Mitigation & Recovery Matching Fund: [HB 2796](#) by Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Faxon) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) allows the Oklahoma Department of Commerce to deposit funds in any account or subaccount as needed, in any amount, up to and including the full amount of the available funds in order to pay for eligible activities at any time. Commerce may exercise discretion to determine the appropriate amount of funds needed to support eligible activities.

The bill went into effect on May 29, 2025.

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 goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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 goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

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 went into effect on May 26, 2025.

Finance/Surcharge Repealer: [SB 677](#) by Sen. Spencer Kern (R-Duncan) and Rep. Emily Gise (R-OKC) allows a seller to offer discounts to a consumer that elects to pay by cash, check or debit card in lieu of payment by credit card. There shall be no limit on the discount that may be offered by the seller. Pursuant to the regulations of the Administrator, a seller who provides a discount not in accordance with regulations shall disclose such information to the Administrator. Any seller that wishes to impose a surcharge for credit card transactions is required to clearly post a notice about the surcharge for both in-store and online transactions. If the transaction is processed over the phone, the surcharge must be verbally disclosed to the consumer. The surcharge is limited to two percent (2%) of the total transaction amount or the processing cost for the retailer, whichever is less.

The bill defines "credit card", "seller", and "surcharge". If the seller only accepts credit cards for payment, no surcharge may be imposed. The bill repeals Title 14A, Section 2-417 of the Oklahoma Statutes, which bans surcharges for credit and debit card transactions. The bill leaves in the language that allows a public trust or municipality the ability to charge service fees as a result of providing the transaction.

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2025.

Insurance/Ambulance Coverage: [SB 1067](#) by Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) and Rep. Preston Stinson (R-Edmond) authorizes a local government entity or ambulance service provider acting on its behalf to annually submit ambulance service rates set by the local government to the Insurance Department. The Department must establish and maintain a public database with all the submitted rates by January 1, 2026. The minimum allowable rate must be the least of the submitted rates, three hundred twenty-five percent (325%) of the current published rate as established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or the ambulance service provider's billed charge. The Department must submit a report using a review of the data and the rates will cease to remain in effect unless modified by the Legislature by December 31, 2027.

The bill goes into effect on January 1, 2026.

OWRB/PREP Fund: [SB 1151](#) by Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) and Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Faxon) appropriates Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) to OWRB to provide water infrastructure funding to a rural water sewer and solid waste management district. The bill appropriates Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) to OWRB to construct water lines. The bill also appropriates Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) to OWRB to establish a grant program for water and wastewater infrastructure, and to improve deficient dams.

The bill goes into effect on July 1, 2025.

BILLS MOVE TO GOVERNOR'S DESK

Now that the Legislature has adjourned Sine Die, the Governor has fifteen (15) days to act on any bill that moved to his desk during the final week of Session. He currently has twenty (20) bills left to act on.

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 passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 85 to 3. The bill passed the Senate on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 41 to 5. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Wednesday.

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 on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 81 to 4. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for all that you have done this year to support OML's Legislative Efforts! We appreciate you taking the time to reach out to your Legislators when we sent Action Alerts and communicating our positions to them. Our efforts are not successful without our Members, and we appreciate all that you do to support OML!