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ROSES ARE RED, VIOLETS ARE BLUE – OML PRIORITIES PASSED THROUGH

This week, the Oklahoma Legislature heard hundreds of bills in committee and considered a few on the floor. Among the many measures moving forward, several OML priorities successfully advanced through committee. We appreciate your continued engagement and support as the legislative session progresses.

OML Priority/Firearms/Judges: [HB 3062](#) by Rep. Derrick Hildebrandt (R-Catoosa) and Sen. Christi Gillespie (R-Broken Arrow) extends the authority to carry firearms to retired municipal judges.

The bill passed the House Judiciary – Criminal Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) if 5 to 0. It moves to the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee.

OML Priority/Publication of Ordinance: [SB 1265](#) by Sen. Christi Gillespie (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Jason Blair (R-Moore) increases the timeline for when an ordinance is published from fifteen (15) days to thirty (30) days.

The bill passed the Senate Local & County Government Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

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

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

OML Priority/Harassment of Public Officials: [HB 3678](#) by Rep. Melissa Provenzano (D-Tulsa) and Sen. Christi Gillespie (R-Broken Arrow) modifies the definition of public officials to include any person elected or appointed to a municipal office, authority, board or commission, or public-school board member related to the use of electronic communication devices meant to threaten, intimidate or harass.

The bill passed the House Judiciary - Criminal Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 4 to 0. The bill moves to the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee.

OML Priority/Public Utility/Limiting Liability: [HB 3883](#) by Rep. Josh Cantrell (R-Catoosa) directs the governing body of the public utility to engage users of the public utility system to be advised of their responsibility to properly use the system and methods to safeguard against system malfunctions, including but not limited to, the following: 1) adopt a "fats, oils and grease ordinance" (FOG); 2) adopt an ordinance requiring new construction to be connected to sanitary sewer system or remodels of existing commercial and residential buildings that are connected to the sanitary sewer system, to include the installation of backflow-prevention devices; 3) periodically advise private residential property owners to install a backflow-prevention device on the private service line. At the discretion of the governing body, public assistance with installation and inspection of backflow-prevention devices may be offered; and 4) advise public utility customers of backflow-prevention devices to be satisfied by annual publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the service area, publication on the public utility or city-sponsored website, or annual inserts in ratepayer monthly utility bills. A public utility that implements the standards shall be considered in conformance with the prescribed requirements and recognized standards for operation and as such shall not be liable if a loss or claim results. Third party contractors have an affirmative defense against administrative penalties from DEQ for deficiencies pre-dating their contract, contingent on a detailed corrective action plan submission. Public utility systems and contractors will not be liable for

violations under previous operators, with the requirement to submit a compliance restoration plan approved by DEQ.

The bill passed the House County & Municipal Government Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the House Government Oversight Committee.

BILLS ON THE MOVE:

Elections/Uniform Military & Overseas Voters Act: [HB 2938](#) by Rep. Jim Olsen (R-Roland) and Sen. Julie McIntosh (R-Porter) modifies the definition of a covered voter as it relates to the Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act to clarify that to engage in Oklahoma elections, overseas voters must have been a bona fide resident of Oklahoma and have had an intent to return to the U.S. before leaving. The bill removes language allowing overseas voters that were born outside of the U.S. but met other requirements to engage in Oklahoma elections.

The bill passed the House Elections & Ethics Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 5 to 1. The bill moves to the House Government Oversight Committee.

Open Meetings/Public Recordings: [HB 2940](#) by Rep. Jim Olsen (R-Roland) creates the First Amendment Open Meetings Protection Act. The bill prohibits public bodies from prohibiting a person attending a public meeting from recording the proceedings. The Oklahoma legislature shall be considered a public body solely for the purposes of this subsection, and legislative committee meetings shall be considered public meetings solely for the purpose of this subsection unless the committee meeting is confidential or lawfully closed to the public. Any person who was unlawfully prohibited from recording a public meeting may bring a civil suit for monetary damages.

The bill was [amended](#) and passed the House Judicial - Civil Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 0. The bill moves to the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee.

Captive Insurance Companies: [HB 2955](#) by Rep. Jason Blair (R-Moore) revises numerous sections of the Oklahoma Captive Insurance Company Act by

adding important terms and obligations for captive insurance companies. New definitions, including "agency captive insurance company", clarify ownership structures related to insurance agencies and financial product issuers. "Public body" is defined to include government and municipal entities with the newfound ability to create captive insurance companies. The bill requires companies to respond to Insurance Commissioner inquiries within twenty (20) days. Sponsored captive insurance companies must maintain a specified level of unimpaired paid-in capital and are allowed to utilize approved irrevocable letters of credit. There is also a condition that allows fine imposition for failures such as delayed financial statements and audits, with an updated fees and taxes reporting structure to finance state retiree funds and regulatory activities. The bill clarifies the provisions for conversions and mergers. These include turning cells into new or different types of insurance companies upon conditions and written approval, ensuring that such conversions preserve the integrity and continuity of the cells' obligations and assets. The bill stresses strong separation practices of protected cell assets, prohibiting their use for other cells' liabilities, and outlaws unauthorized use of general assets to satisfy protected cell obligations. Changes also provide a framework for handling foreign currency and securities, authorizing such transactions with Insurance Commissioner consent. Repeals Section 6470.28 of Title 36 regarding conversion of mergers.

The bill passed the House Insurance Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 0. The bill moves to the House Commerce & Economic Development Oversight Committee.

DEQ/Aluminum: [HB 2976](#) by Rep. Emily Gise (R-OKC) directs DEQ to promulgate rules that establish the numeric water quality criteria for aluminum by December 1, 2028.

The bill was [amended](#) and passed the House Energy Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 0. The bill moves to the House Energy & Natural Resources Oversight Committee.

Rural Law Enforcement Coordination Act: [HB 2993](#) by Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) creates the Rural

Law Enforcement Coordination Act. The bill authorizes the Office of Homeland Security to administer a rural law enforcement coordination program. The bill creates eleven (11) rural law enforcement coordination districts. The law enforcement coordinators shall serve as liaisons between the rural law enforcement districts they represent and any federal, state, local, or tribal law enforcement agencies. Law enforcement coordinators shall be prohibited from exercising legal authority over the law enforcement agencies or communities within the rural law enforcement districts. To be a coordinator, they must have a minimum of ten (10) years of active law enforcement experience or current peace officer issued by CLEET with experience in law enforcement, law enforcement administration, or grant management.

The bill passed the House A&B Public Safety Subcommittee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 2. The bill moves to the House A&B Committee.

Law Enforcement/Loitering/Youth Events: [HB 3040](#) by Rep. Josh West (R-Grove) and Sen. Warren Hamilton (R-McCurtain) broadens the designated safety zone for individuals required to register as sex offenders. The restriction on loitering within five hundred (500) feet now applies not only to schools and similar areas, but also to any facility, business or location primarily serving or providing services to minors including, but not limited to, skating rinks, youth recreation centers, public swimming pools, arcades, amusement parks, or water parks.

The bill passed the House Judiciary - Criminal Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 4 to 1. The bill moves to the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee.

Firefighter Extinguisher Licensing Act: [HB 3081](#) by Rep. Mike Kelley (R-Yukon) lowers the age for an individual obtaining a fire extinguisher license from twenty-one (21) years of age to eighteen (18). The bill removes requirements for a license. The bill also adds that the State Fire Marshal shall issue all licenses. These licenses shall be valid for one (1) year.

The bill passed the House Business Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the

House Commerce & Economic Development Oversight Committee.

Medical Marijuana/Zero-Tolerance Policy: [HB 3127](#) by Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) and Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Wilson) prohibits an employer from refusing to hire, discipline, discharge, or otherwise penalize an applicant or employee on the basis of a positive test for marijuana, unless such action is taken pursuant to a written drug and testing policy adopted and enforced in accordance with the Oklahoma Standards for Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing. An applicant or employee employed in a safety-sensitive position shall be subject to zero-tolerance drug and alcohol standards. This requirement shall apply regardless of any employer policy permitting impairment-based testing or alternative standards for positions not designated as safety-sensitive. The bill modifies "safety-sensitive position". The bill does not require an employer to permit or accommodate the use, possession, sale, transfer, or being under the influence while performing job duties.

The bill passed the House Business Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 2. The bill moves to the House Commerce & Economic Development Oversight Committee.

Police Pension & Retirement System/Mental Health: [HB 3265](#) by Rep. John George (R-Newalla) and Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) for purposes of determining disability in the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System the bill defines "mental health specialist" to mean a psychiatrist licensed by the Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision, a psychologist licensed by the Oklahoma State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, or a Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Marital and Family Therapist, or Licensed Behavioral Practitioner licensed by the Oklahoma Board of Health Licensure.

The bill passed the House Banking, Financial Services & Pension Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 0. The bill moves to the House Government Oversight Committee.

Sunsets: [HB 3320](#) by Rep. Mike Osburn (R-Edmond) repeals several sunset boards. This includes repealing 11 O.S. 2021, Section 51-104 which created

PERB; 59 O.S. 2021, Section 1000.2 which created CIB; and 74 O.S. 2021, Sections 3901 et seq. which created the Sunset laws.

The bill passed the House Administrative Rules Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Electric Utilities/Large Load Customers: [HB 3392](#) by Rep. Amanda Clinton (D-Tulsa) requires the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to perform a comprehensive study examining the current and projected impacts of large load customers. The bill defines "large load customers," as entities with high electric demand, such as data centers, AI operations, and advanced manufacturing facilities. The study will explore several key areas: electric generation capacity, transmission, and distribution infrastructure; system reliability, resiliency and the adequacy of current utility planning; electricity rates and cost allocation are influenced and whether large load customers create cost burdens for other ratepayers; the need and cost assignment for infrastructure investments due to these large customers; any other factors the Commission deems necessary to protect public interest.

The study must also evaluate if the costs associated with serving these large load customers are allocated fairly according to cost causation principles and ensure that rate structures do not inadvertently shift costs to other consumer groups. The final report of this study is due by December 1, 2027, to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The bill passed the House Utilities Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 0. The bill moves to the House Energy & Natural Resources Committee.

Oklahoma Biosolids Land Application Research Pilot Program Act: [HB 3403](#) by Rep. Kenton Patzkowsky (R-Balko) creates the Oklahoma Biosolids Land Application Research Pilot Program "Pilot Program" at Oklahoma State University. The Pilot Program shall be administered by DEQ in cooperation with OSU. The Pilot Program shall operate for an initial five-year period, unless extended by the Legislature. The Pilot Program lists several items it will do including coordinating with DEQ and may utilize biosolids supplied by

Oklahoma municipal wastewater treatment facilities that meet DEQ and EPA standards and provide outreach and education to Oklahoma farmers, ranchers, conservation districts, and municipalities through OSU Extension programs. A report shall be submitted annually to the Governor, Speaker, Pro Tempore, and DEQ regarding the findings, data, and recommendations. The Pilot Program may be funded by legislative appropriations, federal research grants, municipal contributions, private or industry research partnerships, or in-kind contributions of biosolids or laboratory services.

The bill passed the House A&B Natural Resources Subcommittee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 2. The bill moves to the House A&B Committee.

Competitive Bidding: [HB 3417](#) by Rep. Judd Strom (R-Copan) clarifies that council requirements for competitive bidding shall be in addition to the provisions of the Public Competitive Bidding Act. The bill also recodifies 11 O.S. 2021, Section 17-115 as Section 141 of Title 61.

The bill passed the House County & Municipal Government County on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 0. The bill moves to the House Government Oversight Committee.

Public Competitive Bidding Act: [HB 3418](#) by Rep. Judd Strom (R-Copan) establishes procedures for public construction contracts between Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) and less than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to be let and awarded to the lowest responsible bidder by receipt of written bids or awarded on the basis of competitive quotes to the lowest responsible qualified contractor. The bill removes language for industrial and cultural trust contracts from the Public Competitive Bidding Act. Specifications require electronic bid processes to be auditable via live streams, thereby negating the need for a public opening. The bill establishes felony charges for the misuse of insider information regarding bid proposals and terms. Public disclosures of ownership interest in bidding companies are encouraged by requiring full disclosure of beneficial ownership to avoid circumventing rules through intermediary companies. The bill sets public agency procedures

for procurement of goods and services above Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), with detailed bid competitive processes and enforcement of sole-source and sole-brand bidding procedures. School districts are mandated to comply with these new provisions in their financial management and procurement. Contracts may not be altered to avoid stipulated bidding processes as specified; breaches of these terms may lead to misdemeanors or felonies based on the nature of the offense against the act.

The bill passed the House County & Municipal Government County on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 0s. The bill moves to the House Government Oversight Committee.

Municipal Audits: [HB 3463](#) by Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) requires submission of annual financial statement audits in place of biennial audits or an agreed-upon procedures engagement for municipalities with a population of less than two thousand five hundred (2,500). The bill reduces the time that copies of the audit or agreed-upon-procedures engagement shall be filed with the State Auditor & Inspector from nine (9) months to six (6) months.

The Legislature finds as a result of Enrolled House Bill No. 2362 of the 2nd Session of the 59th Oklahoma Legislature, effective November 1, 2024, the Municipal Audit Reform Act of 2022 was not repealed. Any monies still withheld by the Oklahoma Tax Commission for the 2022 fiscal year audits shall be released to the counties; any monies still withheld for the 2023 fiscal year audits by the OTC for the Special Investigative Unit Auditing Revolving Fund shall be released to the Office of the State Auditor and Inspector for purposes consistent with law.

OTC shall release all funds withheld for failure to file the 2024 audit required under Section 17-105 of 25 Title 11 of the Oklahoma Statutes, after the close of the 2026 fiscal year to the Office of the State Auditor and Inspector for purposes consistent with law.

The bill passed the House County & Municipal Government Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of

6 to 0. The bill moves to the House Government Oversight Committee.

Law Enforcement/Riots: [HB 3581](#) by Rep. Mark Lepak (R-Claremore) provides that the commission of assault and battery in the course of a riot is to be a Class B3 felony punishable by a term of no less than two (2) years nor more than ten (10) years imprisonment. Aggravated assault and battery in the course of a riot is to be a Class B1 felony punishable by a term of not less than two (2) years nor more than twenty (20) years imprisonment. If such person willfully damages, destroys or vandalizes any structure, building or office space owned or leased by a municipal, county, state or federal governmental authority in the course of the riot is to be a Class B3 felony punishable by not less than two (2) years nor more than ten (10) years in prison. The wearing of a mask, hood, overing, or disguise for the purpose of concealing identity in the course of a riot is to be a Class D3 felony punishable by up to two (2) years in prison, a fine of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more than Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) or both fine and imprisonment. The punishment for the obstruction of a public street or highway is to be a Class D3 felony punishable by up to two (2) years in prison, a fine of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) or both fine and imprisonment. The bill adds felony offenses where the person has been charged with participating in a riot as an offense for which bail may be denied. The bill modifies the list of instances in which the state or political subdivision is not liable for a loss or claim that results from a riot unless the loss or claim results from instances where the state or political subdivision was aware of the dangerous condition and failed to act.

The bill passed the House Judiciary - Criminal Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 5 to 1. The bill moves to the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee.

Retirement/DROP Plan/Children: [HB 3721](#) by Rep. Mike Kelley (R-Yukon) and Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) allows established children of a deceased participant who was not participating in the DROP of Firefighters Pension and Retirement

System, Police Pension and Retirement System and Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System to participate in the respective Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP).

The bill passed the House Banking, Financial Services & Pension Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 0. The bill moves to the House Government Oversight Committee.

Oklahoma Scrap Metal Dealers Act: [HB 3728](#) by Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) moves the regulation of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act from ODAFF to DEQ.

The bill passed the House Agriculture Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 0. The bill moves to the House Energy & Natural Resources Oversight Committee.

Landowner's Bill of Rights: [HB 3967](#) by Rep. Annie Menz (D-Norman) requires a certain statement to be provided to the property owner at the earliest stage of the acquisition process prior to any negotiation for purchase. The AG is required to review and update the Landowner's Bill of Rights at least once every two (2) years for accuracy and clarity. A bona fide good-faith effort to negotiate shall include providing the property owner with the appraisal or damage assessment relied upon by the acquiring entity.

The bill passed the House Judiciary - Civil Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee.

Eminent Domain: [HB 3968](#) by Rep. Annie Menz (D-Norman) defines "public use" for possession by the public or government entities for infrastructure or public facilities, and operations by public utilities or authorized private entities. The bill places limitations on the exercise of eminent domain. Private property must not be taken or damaged unless the taking is necessary for public use and just compensation is paid. Economic development is explicitly excluded as a valid public use. A governmental body may not exercise, create, extend, or expand any power of eminent domain without expressing statutory authority. No ordinance, charter, resolution, policy or local may broaden the

definition of public use beyond the uses set forth in this section.

The bill passed the House Judiciary - Civil Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee.

Oklahoma Safe Neighborhoods Act: [HB 3985](#) by Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Faxon) and Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) creates the Oklahoma Safe Neighborhoods Act. The bill defines "affected government", "property owner", "fair market value", and "just compensation." The bill authorizes a property owner located in a municipality with a population in excess of one hundred thirty thousand (130,000), to submit a claim for compensation if an affected government follows a policy, pattern, or practice of declining to enforce existing laws, ordinances or other legislation prohibiting illegal public camping, obstructing public thoroughfare, loitering, panhandling, and other acts that create a public nuisance, and either of the following occurs: the property owner documents the expenses to mitigate the nuisance on the property owner's real property; or the fair market value of the owner's private property is reduced. The amount of compensation shall be at the property owner's documented expenses or the reduction in fair market value. The affected government has thirty (30) days to accept or reject the property owner's claim. If they reject the claim or do not respond in thirty (30) days, the property owner may file a cause of action in the district court.

This act does not apply to decisions by city, town, or county authorities to exercise prosecutorial discretion not to prosecute alleged offenders if such discretion is exercised on a case-by-case basis and the justification is published on a monthly basis by the city, town or county; acts of executive clemency; or acts or omissions mandated by federal law.

The bill passed the House County & Municipal Government Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 0. The bill moves to the House Government Oversight Committee.

Law Enforcement/Security Guard: [HB 4105](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) excludes from the

definition of "security guard" any individual operating unarmed or contracted for any event, including, but not limited to, concerts, festivals, and sporting events, for individuals operating unarmed, any person contracted as an usher queue agent, ticket agent, gate agent, credential verification agent or similar role or any event, concert, festival or sporting event.

The bill passed the House Public Safety Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 0. The bill moves to the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee.

Workers' Compensation/First Responders: [HB 4260](#) by Rep. Neil Hays (R-Checotah) allows a firefighter, peace officer, or emergency medical technician to receive workers' compensation if they suffer acute myocardial infarction or stroke within eight (8) hours of a shift during which they engaged in strenuous emergency response activities or training. The bill spells out "stressful or strenuous physical activity" to not include clerical, administrative, or nonmanual activities.

The bill passed the House Judiciary - Civil Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 0. The bill moves to the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee.

Rural Water Districts: [HB 4316](#) by Rep. Gerrid Kendrix (R-Altus) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) removes the limitations prohibiting the organizing of a rural water district.

The bill passed the House Energy Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the House Energy & Natural Resources Oversight Committee.

Pet Shops: [HB 4335](#) by Rep. Anthony Moore (R-Clinton) and Sen. Warren Hamilton (R-McCurtain) authorizes a county or municipality or any agency thereof to: adopt or enforce rules, administrative regulations, codes, or ordinances relating to the operations of a retail pet shop; provided the pet shop is in compliance with the Commercial Pet Breeders and Animal Shelter Licensing Act; and regulate and inspect retail pet stores but may not ban or prohibit a retail pet shop or retail pet shop owner for selling

dogs and cats within the county or municipality unless the shop or owner has received three (3) or more convictions over five (5) years for violating the Commercial Pet Breeders and Animal Shelter Licensing Act. The bill also changes the timeline for sending written notices regarding the expiration of licenses from sixty (60) to ninety (90) days.

The bill passed the House County & Municipal Government Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 1. The bill moves to the House Government Oversight Committee.

Water/Groundwater Measurement Programs: [HB 4459](#) by Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) OWRB, beginning January 1, 2027, is authorized to provide a five-year flex allocation of groundwater usage based off the previously determined allocated annual use of the basin or subbasin. A five-year permit holder must annually report their prior year's usage using an approved meter and pay the annual fee. A five-year flex allocation shall not require a new permit for existing permit holders. The five-year allocation for a new applicant is based on the current maximum annual yield. A permit holder may exceed their annual allowable amount in any one year but must adhere to their five-year limit overall. They may not exceed their annual allocation by two hundred percent (200%) in any one year. Permit holders that don't have a five-year allocation or are in a groundwater irrigation district or a cost-share conservation district must develop a program for providing measuring systems on a loan or cost share basis.

The bill passed the House Energy Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 2. The bill moves to the House Energy & Natural Resources Oversight Committee.

Retirement Systems/COLAS: [SB 172](#) by Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) and Rep. Max Wolfley (R-OKC) authorizes Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System, Uniform Retirement System for Justices and Judges, Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System, Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System, Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System, and the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System boards to approve a two percent

(2%) COLA when each respective System's funding ratio exceeds eighty percent (80%), provided the COLA does not cause the System to fall below the eighty percent (80%) funding ratio. In subsequent years the Boards may grant two percent (2%) COLAs if the funded ratio has increased five percent (5%) since the last COLA.

The bill passed the Senate Retirement & Government Resources Committee with the title stricken on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

OHCA/Municipal Liens: [SB 1198](#) by Sen. Mark Mann (D-OKC) and Rep. Dell Kerbs (R-Shawnee) directs the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) to file a release of the liens on properties on which OHCA has liens upon request of a municipality if the property is owned by such municipality and is to be transferred to a not-for-profit entity for a qualified project or for another public purpose deemed suitable by the municipality. "Nuisance property" is defined as property that is deemed unmarketable or unusable due to the existence of liens in excess of the property's fair market value as shown by the county assessor's office of due to environmental problems or conditions that exist on the property that would cost more to remedy than the fair market value of the property as shown by the county assessor's office, or property in which abatement liens have been placed upon the property by a municipality in excess of twenty-five percent (25%) of the property's fair market value as shown by the county assessor's office.

The bill passed the Senate Local & County Government Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

RESTORE Act/Income Tax Credit: [SB 1393](#) by Minority Leader Julia Kirt (D-OKC) creates the Revitalizing Empty Structures Through Ownership, Renovation, and Enterprise (RESTORE) Act. The bill directs OHFA and OTC to administer the program. The bill establishes an income tax credit for up to fifty percent (50%) of qualified expenditures for an adaptive reuse project. The Agency may approve up to Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) of credit each fiscal year for fiscal years 2027 through 2037. The

Agency shall certify projects and develop a preference rating system for approval based on the following: availability of and need for workforce and affordable housing in the area; establishment of new workforce or affordable rental units based on HUD definitions for twenty percent (20%) or more of the units for at least ten (10) years; access to established municipal and county infrastructure; and location in a designated or associate Main Street District and/or location in an Oklahoma Certified Cultural District. Upon approval, the Agency shall notify OTC of the credit amount awarded to the establishment. The bill provides for the credit to be carried forward for a period of ten (10) years. The Agency is required to annually submit a report of the Program to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and Governor.

The bill passed the Senate Revenue & Taxation Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 3. The bill moves to the Senate A&B Committee.

Sales Tax Exemption/Aerospace Taxes: [SB 1400](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) and Rep. Daniel Pae (R-Lawton) combines existing exemptions into a unified framework based on investment and employment thresholds. provides in order to qualify for the exemption the cost of the items purchased by the qualified aircraft maintenance or manufacturing facilities shall equal or exceed the sum of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00). "Qualified facilities" defined as those with a construction cost over Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) and employing at least two hundred fifty (250) new full-time employees. The bill details what constitutes a qualified maintenance facility and extends the exemption to aircraft engines, frame repairs, and other technical modifications.

The bill passed the Senate Revenue & Taxation Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate A&B Committee.

Drones/Critical Infrastructure: [SB 1441](#) by Sen. Kelly Hines (R-OKC) and Rep. Josh West (R-Grove) imposes criminal liability for any person who violates by flying a drone over or near critical infrastructure.

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

Law Enforcement Reports: [SB 1612](#) by Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Mark Lawson (R-Sapulpa) requires medical providers to report any wound or illness that was caused by a firearm, knife, poison, or explosive device as well as any wound or illness caused by the use of violence or was sustained in a suspicious or unusual manner or in the commission of a crime to a law enforcement agency with jurisdiction at the location in which such treatment is administered or the request for such treatment is received. The report shall contain the name, address, race, sex, current whereabouts, and age of the patient, and shall also contain the nature and extent of the injury, wound, illness, or burn, any other information that might be helpful in establishing the cause of the injury or illness. The report should also contain information that might assist in detecting crime. The reports must be made within seventy-two (72) hours of a request by the law enforcement agency investigating the report. A facility may blur the images of individuals who are not a patient and who are not individuals associated with or assisting the patient about whom the report is made. The bill provides that no privilege or contract shall relieve any person from the requirement of reporting. The bill provides immunity to civil liability arising from reporting such persons to law enforcement. The bill also requires the owner of a public garage to report on any motor vehicle that has upon it, or in it, bullet marks, gunshot marks, blood stains, or marks or evidence of any purported crime immediately to a law enforcement agency. Any person who violates the provisions of this law, upon conviction, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), imprisonment in a county jail not to exceed six (6) months, or both.

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

GTCA/Ongoing Events: [SB 1638](#) by Sen. Tom Woods (R-Westville) amends the definition of "occurrence" for purposes of determining accrual

under the GTCA, as a claim based on a continuous, repeated, or ongoing accident, event or exposure to not be deemed to have accrued until such accident, event, or exposure has ceased or been abated. In an action or claim against the state or political subdivision for damage to property, the court may award prevailing plaintiff court costs and expenses including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney, appraisal, and engineering fees actually incurred.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 7 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

CIB/Licensing Fees: [SB 1732](#) by Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) and Rep. Judd Strom (R-Copan) increases license fees relating to the Home Inspection Licensing Act. The bill eliminates the licenses for permit issuance and permit renewal from the CIB and establishes fees for plumbing, electrical, or mechanical licenses. The bill also establishes a Fifty-five Dollar (\$55.00) fee for the initial or renewal of a license for a building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, or energy code inspectors. CIB is authorized to charge a fee for an initial and renewal poultry house contractor license.

The bill passed the Senate Business & Insurance Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

GTCA/Public Trusts: [SB 1827](#) by Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) modifies the definition of public trust to under GTCA to include a public trust created pursuant to Section 3224 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes 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 passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 1. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Homeless Camps/DEQ & DPS Evaluations: [SB 2046](#) by Sen. Lisa Standridge (R-Norman) requires campsites on municipal land not designated for use as a campsite to be subject to evaluation by DEQ and the DPS if DEQ receives three (3) credible reports that such land is being utilized as an unauthorized camp. Such evaluation shall be based on basic

environmental and sanitation standards. If such campsite does not meet the standards, both DEQ and DPS shall jointly notify the municipality where campsite is located. The municipality has ninety (90) days to remove the unauthorized camp. If the municipality does not remove the camp in that time period, DPS shall remove the camp within sixty (60) days. DPS and DEQ shall promulgate rules to effectuate this provision.

The bill also applies to camps on land within the county.

The bill passed the Senate Local & County Government Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 6 to 2. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Forest Fire Prevention/Burn Bans: [SB 2138](#) by Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) requires landowners to have a written prescribed burn plan that provides detailed information such as the purpose for the burn, contact information, firebreaks, potential weather and safety plans for the parcel of land to be covered by the Oklahoma Prescribed Burn Indemnity Fund (Fund). The Fund will not reimburse the participating landowner for damages incurred on his or own property. Landowners are required to notify adjacent landowners and local authorities prior to conducting a burn. There is a filing fee of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) to accompany the plan. The maximum amount the Fund shall pay for losses from any one prescribed fire event is One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00)

The bill passed the Senate Agriculture & Wildlife Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. It moves to the Senate floor.

NEXT WEEK AT THE CAPITOL

Monday, February 16, 2026

House A&B Transportation Subcommittee
10:30 a.m., Room 4s.5

Eminent Domain: [HB 3758](#) by Rep. Danny Sterling (R-Tecumseh) modifies the definition of "just compensation" to mean the greater of: one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the fair market value of the property taken, or the amount necessary for the

owner to purchase a comparable replacement property within the same community. The bill defines "comparable replacement property" to mean one that is similar in size, location, use, utility, access, zoning, and improvements suitable for the owner's needs. If no such property is available, the compensation shall reflect the costs of a substantively similar property. For partial takings, the compensation attributable to the part taken shall be determined in accordance with the enhanced compensation requirements. If the fair market value of the property on the date of taking exceeds the fair market value, the higher fair market value shall be used. The rights and compensation standards are mandatory and shall not be waived or reduced by any acquiring agency, condemning authority, or political subdivision. No owner shall be required to waive their protection.

**House A&B Sub: Natural Resources
Subcommittee
10:30 a.m., Room 5s2**

DEQ/Biosolids Land Application Research Revolving Fund: [HB 3402](#) by Rep. Kenton Patzkowsky (R-Balko) creates a revolving fund for DEQ to be designated as the "Biosolids Land Application Research Revolving Fund". The Fund may be used by DEQ for the purpose of obtaining equipment, staffing, and training for the testing of biosolids.

Sales Tax Exemption/Fracked Water: [HB 4340](#) by Rep. Anthony Moore (R-Clinton) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) creates a new sales tax exemption on the sale of frack water, when sold to a person or entity engaged in the exploration for, drilling of, or production of oil or gas, for use in hydraulic fracturing or other well completion or stimulation operations. The exemption does not apply to sales of water for any other purposes.

**House A&B General Government Committee
4:30 p.m., Room 4s.5**

Forest Fire Prevention/Burn Bans: [HB 3404](#) by Rep. Kenton Patzkowsky (R-Balko) requires landowners to have a written prescribed burn plan that provides detailed information such as the purpose for the burn, contact information, firebreaks, potential

weather and safety plans for the parcel of land to be covered by the Oklahoma Prescribed Burn Indemnity Fund (Fund). The Fund will not reimburse the participating landowner for damages incurred on his or own property. Landowners are required to notify adjacent landowners and local authorities prior to conducting a burn. There is a filing fee of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) to accompany the plan. The maximum amount the Fund shall pay for losses from any one prescribed fire event is One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00).

**House A&B Judiciary Subcommittee
4:30 p.m., Room 206**

Courts/Removing and Waiving Fees: [HB 4112](#) by Rep. Tammy West (R-Bethany) removes several fees assessed in criminal cases, including DNA, fingerprinting, and AFIS fees. The bill revises the guidelines for courts to waive financial obligations for defendants who can demonstrate inability to pay when they have been receiving state benefits. In All supervision fees paid to the district attorneys are removed. Beginning November 1, 2026, the unpaid balance of any fee assessed for the costs of prosecution previously payable to the district attorney and owed by a defendant in his or her criminal case shall be waived and deemed unenforceable and uncollectible. Any portion of a judgment imposing such fees shall be vacated and the costs associated shall be removed from all applicable cases by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

**Senate Government & Retirement Resources
Committee
10:30 a.m., Room 4s.9**

Firefighters Pension/Volunteers Benefit Increase: [SB 432](#) by Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) and Rep. Mike Kelley (R-Yukon) authorizes volunteer firefighters who retire on and after the effective date of this act to receive a monthly pension in the amount of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) for each year of credited service not to exceed thirty (30) years.

Police Pension & Retirement: [SB 609](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) allows a participant in the Police Pension and Retirement System to receive up to five (5) years credited service from state, county or municipal retirement system from a state other than Oklahoma.

Firefighter Pension & Retirement/Municipal Contribution Increase: [SB 715](#) by Pro Tempore Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) increases the municipal contribution, beginning on July 1, 2025, from fourteen percent (14%) to sixteen percent (16%) of the total actual paid gross salaries of the members of the fire department.

Police Pension and Retirement System/Member Contribution Increase: [SB 716](#) by Pro Tempore Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) increases the municipality's contribution, on and after July 1, 2025, from fourteen percent (14%) to sixteen percent (16%) of the total of the actual base paid salary system employed by the System.

Procurement Protection Act of 2026: [SB 1611](#) by Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) creates the Procurement Protection Act of 2026. The bill prohibits a state agency or political subdivision from accepting bids for goods or services from a state-owned enterprise of a foreign adversary; a company domiciled with a foreign adversary; a foreign adversary company; or a federally banned corporation. A state agency may enter into a contract for goods manufactured by a company listed if: there is no other reasonable option for procuring the good; and the contract is pre-approved by the Director OMES, or in the case of a political subdivision, the contract is pre-approved by the procurement authority of the political subdivision, after a determination that not procuring the good would pose a greater threat to this state than the threat associated with the procurement.

House Judiciary - Criminal Committee
3:00 p.m., Room 4s.5

Law Enforcement/Domestic Violence: [HB 1322](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) the bill creates the Persistent Domestic Violence Offenders Registration Act. OSBI is required to create a registry or

persistent domestic violence offenders. Beginning January 1, 2027, OSBI shall maintain a registry based upon information supplied to OSBI by district court clerks and information available to OSBI from local law enforcement agencies. OSBI shall make the registry available for public inquiry on the internet. The registry shall contain the name, date of birth, conviction date, county or counties of conviction and a current photograph of the offender. The information shall be sent by district court clerks and law enforcement agencies in an electronic format in a manner prescribed by OSBI. A defendant required to register shall pay a fee of One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) paid to the clerk of the district court. The bill directs OSBI to promulgate policies and procedures to implement this act.

Law Enforcement/Firearms Training: [HB 3180](#) by Rep. Nick Archer (R-Elk City) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) removes the requirement of firearm safety and training courses for handgun permits. The bill makes firearms safety and training courses optional. The bill deletes the list of people exempt from firearms safety and training courses.

Law Enforcement/Identity Theft: [HB 3244](#) by Rep. Steve Bashore (R-Miami) broadens the definition of any person who engages in a pattern of criminal offenses in: two or more counties; in two or more municipalities in this state; in an unincorporated portion of a county and in a municipality within the same county; when one of the offenses was committed outside this state and the other was committed within this state; and in circumstances when the initial act was committed online through cyberspace, by a computer, social media, artificial intelligence, or by a cellular network inside the state; or who attempts or conspires to with others to engage in a pattern of criminal offenses. The bill adds language against exploitation through coercion or manipulation of vulnerable groups such as mentally ill, homeless, or minors. It adds penalties, making them felonies for repeated exploitation. The bill expands the definition of "identity theft". The bill creates harsher penalties for such offenses. The bill authorizes law enforcement, including the employment of identity theft task force officers and sharing among financial institutions.

Firearms/Definitions: [HB 3301](#) by Rep. Jay Steagall (R-Yukon) deletes the definitions of "sawed off shotgun" and "sawed off rifle". The bill states that it is lawful to own or be in possession of any firearm or suppressor pursuant to the National Firearms Act.

Firearms/Fairgrounds/Public Buildings: [HB 3302](#) by Rep. Jay Steagall (R-Yukon) allows any person who is in possession of a valid handgun license to carry at events held on the fairgrounds and in buildings of the fairgrounds that are open to the general public during the Oklahoma State Fair or the Tulsa State Fair. The bill also adds places where an individual cannot carry: to include any public building used for a public meeting conducted under the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, unless otherwise authorized by law; any public facility providing substance abuse or mental health services or any facility providing substance abuse programs to persons who are under the direct supervision of the state a county, or municipality, unless authorized by law; and the State Capitol Building, unless otherwise authorized by law.

Court Cost Compliance Program: [HB 3430](#) by Rep. Jonathan Wilk (R-Goldsby) provides guidelines for paying costs in lieu of physical court appearances, where such payments are tantamount to a plea of no contest, constituting a finding of guilt and waiving the right to a jury trial. The bill prohibits a court cost compliance liaison from submitting an invoice for third-party costs incurred while seeking to enforce cost judgments. Hardship waivers are specified, with the presumption of some defendants' permanent inability to pay. The bill removes certain procedures related to issuing warrants and privacy requirements and consolidates the system by requiring all counties to engage in the compliance program.

Procedures for handling default cases are clarified, requiring immediate notification and potential referral to the court cost compliance program. The bill removes several existing protocols, such as the issuance of a Warning/Notice or cost arrest warrants, shifting focus to administrative enforcement. Courts are directed to regularly enter judgments against defaulting individuals and are authorized to add administrative fees for court cost

obligations. The suspension of driving licenses becomes an optional enforcement measure, underscoring flexibility in handling non-compliance cases. The bill also prescribes how costs should be documented in judgments and mandates the annual auditing of collected funds, reinforcing accountability and transparency in the process.

Law Enforcement/Transient Sex Offender Elimination Act of 2026: [HB 3848](#) by Rep. Eric Roberts (R-OKC) creates the Transient Sex Offender Elimination Act of 2026. The bill defines "program house" and "transient sex offender," and provides a framework for approved residential facilities offering rehabilitative programs to registered sex offenders. The bill allows program houses to accommodate multiple offenders if within legal occupancy limits and not within specific proximity to protected zones. Single-family homes may house one offender, with family exceptions. Inmates must complete specific reformative curricula before release. Transitional housing also mandates participation in further rehabilitation programs focused on recovery, job readiness, and support group participation. Upon release, offenders receive a comprehensive portfolio that supports state identification and planned reintegration into the community via housing and job strategies. The Department of Corrections (DOC) is tasked with improving offender registration accuracy and responsiveness. The bill encourages the development of rehabilitation and housing initiatives through funding incentives coordinated between the DOC and OMES. The bill retroactively extends program eligibility to all current and compliant sex offenders, ensuring broader access to housing solutions and rehabilitative services.

Law Enforcement/Domestic Violence: [HB 3903](#) by Rep. Ellyn Hefner (D-OKC) and Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) requires law enforcement agencies to prepare detailed written reports for every domestic violence incident, specifying that simpler notations like dispatch logs do not meet the report's requirement. Court clerks are directed to process each petition for protective orders by accepting, file-stamping, and docketing them, regardless of their disposition, and maintaining them as case records, while adhering to legal standards for confidentiality and possible expungement. Each member of the

judiciary is now required to undergo at least two hours of annual training on domestic violence and related issues, such as substance abuse and mental health. The training will focus on the dynamics of domestic violence, its impact on victims and their children, identifying dominant aggressors, and evidence-based practices in behavioral health, among other topics.

Law Enforcement/Critical Infrastructure Facilities: [HB 4108](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) expands the scope of intruding and forbidden entry without site authorization to the operational area of an airport including runways, taxiways, ramps, apron areas, aircraft parking and storage areas, fuel storage areas, maintenance areas, and any other area of an airport used or intended to be used for landing, takeoff, or surface maneuvering of aircrafts.

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

House Public Health Committee
9:00 a.m., Room 206

Oklahoma Clean Indoor Air Act: [HB 3682](#) by Rep. Melissa Provenzano (D-Tulsa) creates the Oklahoma Clean Indoor Air Act. Smoking shall be prohibited in the following places: indoor workplaces; government buildings; restaurants and bars; public transportation; health care facilities; educational institutions; retail stores and malls; and sports arenas and stadiums. Smoking is allowed in tobacco shops or cigar bars with proper ventilation and signage; private residences, unless used for childcare or health care services; designated smoking rooms in hotels, with a limited percentage of rooms; and on tribal land and reservations. Establishments are required to have clear signage stating "No Smoking" at entrances and throughout facilities. Local governments or municipalities may enact stricter ordinances.

House Children & Youth Services Committee
3:00 p.m., Room 4s.5

Homeless/Continuum of Care Framework: [HB 3131](#) by Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) establishes a statewide continuum of care for homeless services to be administered by the State Department of Health. Participation in the statewide continuum of

care and compliance with this act shall be a condition of receipt of public funds by a homeless service provider. Each board of county commissioners shall serve as the local coordinating authority for homeless service providers operating within the county and receiving public funds.

House County & Municipal Government Committee
3:00 p.m., Room 206

Municipal Bond Elections: [HB 3435](#) by Rep. Jonathan Wilk (R-Goldsby) requires that every municipal bond proposal to be voted on by the citizens of the municipality shall contain only one subject and the subject shall be expressed and defined in its ballot title. Multiple bond proposals shall be permitted on the same ballot, provided they require separate votes to be cast. A bond proposal may violate this act if the monies raised through the bond are appropriated and spent by more than a single agency, department or director with the municipality.

Building Codes/Single Stairways: [HB 3913](#) by Rep. Mickey Dollens (D-OKC) permits a municipality to exercise the authority to authorize apartment buildings to have a single stairway, regardless of local amendments to the International Building Code. To qualify, these buildings must meet several standards such as the following: only if the building; does not have more than six (6) stories above grade plane and is not a high-rise as defined by the International Building Code, as adopted by OUBCC; does not have more than four dwelling units on any floor; has automatic sprinkler locations in each interior exit stairway that complies with NFPA 13 standards; has an exterior stairway or an interior exit stairway for which the doors swing into the interior of the building swing; has interior exit stairway enclosures; and has on each floor a corridor from each dwelling unit entry or exit door.

Cybersecurity/Liability: [HB 4132](#) by Rep. Jay Steagall (R-Yukon) provides liability protections for counties and municipalities resulting from a data breach or cybersecurity incident, if at the time of the breach, the county or municipality had adopted and reasonably conformed its practices to one or more of the following frameworks: NIST; CIS; or ISO/IEC

27000 series of information security standards. To qualify for a safe harbor, a county or municipality shall: complete an annual self-certification by the information technology officer affirming conformity to the selected framework; maintain documentation and records demonstrating implementation of cybersecurity practices; and obtain an independent review by a qualified external assessor not less than three (3) years. The reports are confidential under the Open Records Act. A county or municipality may voluntarily submit summary information of self-certification to the State Auditor and Inspector for benchmarking purposes.

OML Priority/OUBCC/Single Stair Policy: [HB 4203](#) by Rep. Suzanne Schreiber (D-Tulsa) requires OUBCC to develop guidelines and revisions to the International Building Code that permit Group R-2 occupancies to be served by a single exit, provided that the building has no more than four stories above grade plane.

OML Priority/Publication of Ordinance: [HB 4303](#) by Rep. Jason Blair (R-Moore) increases the timeline for when an ordinance is published from fifteen (15) days to thirty (30) days.