

04-26

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ONE WEEK TO DEADLINE – OML PRIORITIES KEEP MOVING

Legislative momentum continues as we head toward the March 5th committee deadline for House and Senate bills to be heard in committee.

This week brought positive movement for municipalities, with four additional OML priority bills passing through oversight committees and advancing in the process. With one week to go, advocacy efforts remain focused on ensuring key municipal priorities successfully clear this critical milestone while slowing down those that harm us.

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

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OML Priority/Firearms/Judges: [HB 3062](#) by Rep. Derrick Hildebrandt (R-Catoosa) and Sen. Christi Gillespie (R-Broken Arrow) allows a retired municipal judge, having served as a municipal judge for twenty (20) cumulative years as certified by OMJA, and who is qualified to serve as a municipal judge, to carry a firearm throughout the state to use only for personal protection; provided, however, the retired municipal judge shall not be authorized to carry the firearm into any district court of this state. Retired district judges, district attorneys or assistant district attorneys who are currently authorized to carry firearms throughout the state pursuant to state law shall be exempt. The chief judge of the district court may issue a written order allowing a municipal judge to carry a firearm within the district court during the time period in which he or she serves as the chief judge.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

OML Priority/Revenue & Taxation/Intercept: [HB 3319](#) by Rep. Ryan Eaves (R-Atoka) and Sen. Tom Woods (R-Westville) authorizes a qualified entity that is a municipal public authority or public trust to file a claim with OTC requesting that the amount owed to the qualified entity for delinquent utility charges, including, but not limited to, water, sewer, sanitation, and related service fees be deducted from any state income tax refund due to that individual, provided that the utility charges are at least ninety (90) days delinquent and the utility service associated with the delinquent account has been lawfully disconnected for nonpayment.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

OML Priority/Oklahoma Common Cents Act: [HB 3075](#) by Rep. Derrick Hildebrandt (R-Catoosa) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) establishes rounding rules, unless actions by the U.S. Congress direct otherwise, from the effective date of the act until July 1, 2027, any political subdivision may round final amounts owed to the entity as follows if the payment is made in the form of cash so that an amount ending in: 1) one cent (\$0.01) or two cents (\$0.02) is rounded down to zero (0); 2) three cents (\$0.03) or four cents (\$0.04) is rounded up to five cents (\$0.05); 3) six cents (\$0.06) or seven cents (\$0.07) is rounded down to five cents (\$0.05); and 4) eight cents (\$0.08) or nine cents (\$0.09) is rounded up to ten cents (\$0.10).

This does not apply to any payment made by check, debit card, credit card, electronic or digital payment or other similar form of payment. For payment of ad valorem taxes, the overage or underage of cash payments shall be accounted for by the county's portion of unappropriated revenue for the general fund. Any political subdivision of the state may account for any over or under cash payments from a fund under its control as determined by the governing body. determined by the governing body. The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 18 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

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

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill is scheduled to be heard on the House floor on Monday, March 2nd.

BILLS ON THE MOVE:

Retirement/OPERS/DROP: [HB 1268](#) by Rep. Neil Hays (R-Checotah) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) authorizes OPERS to establish a Deferred Option Plan (DROP) that allows licensed emergency medical personnel, deputy sheriff and county jailers with at least twenty (20) years of service to defer retirement benefits for up to five (5) years while continuing to work. When a member begins participation in the OPERS DROP, the contribution of the employee shall cease. The employer's contribution is divided equally between the participant's account and the OPERS trust account. Municipal contributions for employees who elect the DROP shall be credited equally to the OPERS and to the OPERS DROP plan. The monthly retirement benefits that would have been payable had the member elected to cease employment and receive service shall be paid into the DROP account. If the participant dies during the period of participation in the OPERS DROP plan, a lump sum payment equal to the account balance shall be paid to recipients, properly designated in writing or, if not, to the surviving spouse who waws married to the person for thirty (30) continuous months; provided, a surviving spouse of a participant who died in, and as a consequence of, the performance of the participant's duty for a participating municipality is not subject to the thirty (30) month marriage requirement for survivor benefits, or if no surviving spouse, to the estate of the participant.

The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 4. The bill moves to the House floor.

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 of persistent domestic violence offenders. Beginning January 1, 2028, 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 district clerk. The bill directs OSBI to promulgate policies and procedures to implement this act. Data shall be open to the public upon request. However, the data will not include the names of any victim or suspect involved in an incident of domestic abuse or any information which would serve to identify such individuals.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 13-0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Battery Stewardship Act: [HB 1907](#) by Rep. Arturo Alonso-Sandoval (D-OKC) and Sen. Jack Stewart (R-Yukon) creates the Battery Stewardship Act. The bill restricts the sale of certain batteries unless they are following the requirements of Section 4 of this act. No later than June 1, 2027, each producer shall submit a battery stewardship plan to DEQ for review. No later than January 1, 2028, each producer shall operate under an approved battery stewardship plan. A battery stewardship plan submitted to DEQ shall have a term of no more than five (5) years and include several requirements. DEQ shall calculate the total cost of administering and implementing the battery stewardship program on an annual basis. No later than March 1, 2029, and annually thereafter, a producer shall submit to DEQ a report listing certain requirements. There are penalties for improper disposal up to Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) for each violation.

The bill passed the House Energy & Natural Resources Oversight Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 14 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Eminent Domain/Conservation Commission: [HB 2100](#) by Rep. Annie Menz (R-Norman) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) declares private lands that are entered into the Conservation Commission Cost-Share Program are exempt from eminent domain.

The bill passed the House Energy & Natural Resources Oversight Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 5. The bill moves to the House floor.

Environment/DEQ Permits: [HB 2596](#) by Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) modifies the process for Tier II and Tier III permits under the Oklahoma Uniform Environmental Permitting Act. The bill requires DEQ to create an Electronic Environmental Permit Application Docket where applicants and the public can find documents related to a permit application. The bill requires public electronic notification and publication of the draft permit or denial on the Electronic Environmental Permit Application Docket to be maintained by DEQ to be on their website. The bill requires any permit applicant to notify all adjacent property owners in writing of their application. The bill encourages DEQ public meetings to happen more quickly and requires the DEQ to file a response to public comments more quickly. The bill reduces the time allowed to request an administrative hearing from twenty (20) days to fifteen (15) and requires the DEQ to hold a prehearing conference more quickly.

The bill passed the House Energy & Natural Resources Oversight Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Firearms/Public Lakes or Waterways: [HB 2937](#) by Rep. Jim Olsen (R-Roland) and Sen. Warren Hamilton (R-McCurtain) allows for the carry of firearms on vessels on public lakes or waterways.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Law Enforcement/Fentanyl Overdose Reporting: [HB 2941](#) by Rep. Steve Bashore (R-Miami) and Sen. Aaron Reinhardt (R-Jenks) requires first responders who respond to an incident in which they reasonably believe a person is experiencing or has experienced a drug overdose, to contact local law enforcement as soon as practicable after attending to the medical needs of the person. The obligation to contact local law enforcement does not require delay in providing medically necessary emergency care. A first responder acting in good faith shall be immune from civil or criminal liability for contacting law enforcement.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Firearms/Liability: [HB 2960](#) by Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) and Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) expands the scope of liability exemption to include manufacturing, distributing, or selling component parts of firearms.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Public Officials/Nondisclosure Agreements: [HB 2999](#) by Rep. Mike Dobrinski (R-Kingfisher) prohibits an elected or appointed public official with respect to a matter involving the performance of duties by the public official if the nondisclosure agreement relates to a project that would have significant impact on the jurisdiction or jurisdictions in which the project would be located or operate. The bill defines "significant impact" to mean facilities or operations that would affect electrical power usage, water, or other utility infrastructure and similar factors for at least ten percent (10%) of the residents of the area in which the project or facility is proposed to be located or operated.

This law is not applicable to a nondisclosure agreement that a person is requested or required to sign which is personal or related to litigation or potential litigation which does not involve the performance of any duty imposed directly upon the person because of the appointed or elected office the person occupies.

The bill passed the House Rules Committee on Tuesday with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 8 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

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 & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 11 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Law Enforcement/CLEET Director: [HB 3055](#) by Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) and Rep. Jonathan Wingard (R-Ada) requires the Executive Director of CLEET to be a certified peace officer in this state.

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

Firefighters/Registered Sex Offenders: [HB 3082](#) by Rep. Mike Kelley (R-Yukon) and Sen. Kelly Hines (R-OKC) prohibits any fire department to employ any person as a firefighter who has received a guilty verdict or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any offense required to register under the Sex Offender Registration Act. Any person who violates this act, upon conviction, is guilty of a misdemeanor. A "firefighter" is defined as a volunteer or a permanent salaried professional member of any fire department within the State of Oklahoma.

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

Law Enforcement/Corporation Commission: [HB 3152](#) by Rep. David Hardin (R-Stilwell) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) gives Corporation Commission enforcement officers general criminal law enforcement authority upon the prior consent of the official in charge of a state law enforcement agency, sheriff, or chief of police in whose territorial jurisdiction the exercise of such authority occurs.

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

Law Enforcement/Identity Theft: [HB 3244](#) by Rep. Steve Bashore (R-Miami) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) 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. Law enforcement may disseminate information to fraud investigators or similarly acting employees who are assisting with a fraud investigation.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Open Meetings Act/Attorney General: [HB 3278](#) by Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) authorizes the AG to determine after an investigation, by the greater weight of the evidence, that a public body, agency, or officer has violated the Open Meeting Act to enter into a consent order with a public body, agency or officer or may issue a finding of violation. If the AG enters into a consent agenda, the consent order may contain admissions of fact any or all of the following: for a first-time violation, there is required completion of training approved by the AG concerning the requirements of the Open Meeting Act; impose civil penalties up to One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) for each violation; and language that the public body will comply with the Open Meeting Act. If the AG issues a finding of violation to a public body, agency or a officer, the finding may require any or all of the following: cease and desist from further violations of the Open Meetings act; comply with the provisions of the Act; complete training approved by the AG; and pay a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) for each violation. The AG may apply to the district court to enforce a consent order or finding of violation.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill is scheduled to be heard on the House floor on Monday, March 2nd.

Delinquent Court Fines: [HB 3321](#) by Rep. Mike Osburn (R-Edmond) removes the court cost compliance program and allows civil enforcement of delinquent court financial obligations. "Cost arrest warrants" are eliminated shifting it to a civil remedy for noncompliance of financial obligations. The court clerk is authorized to pursue civil enforcement actions for failure to adhere to payment plans for court-ordered financial obligations. The bill also removes procedures involving individuals arrested under cost warrants and the utilization of the court cost compliance program.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Food Truck/Fire Suppression: [HB 3369](#) by Rep. Derrick Hildebrant (R-Catoosa) and Sen. Christi Gillespie (R-Broken Arrow) modifies the mandate for automatic fire extinguishing systems in food trucks, which shall be optional, if the mobile food preparation vehicle is equipped with at least two (2) portable fire extinguishers meeting NFPA 10 standards and all employees receive annual fire safety training.

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

Municipal Audits: [HB 3463](#) by Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) and Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) 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 Government Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 16 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

2030 Census Complete Count: [HB 3620](#) by Rep. Mark Lawson (R-Sapulpa) and Sen. Kristen Thompson (R-Edmond) creates the sixteen (16) member 2030 Census Complete Count Committee, which six (6) members representing state and local governments reflecting the geographic diversity of the state. The Committee is charged with developing and implementing a census outreach, promotion, recruiting and enumeration assistance plan of action designed to assure a full count of the population of Oklahoma for the 2030 Decennial Census. The Committee appointments shall be official by March 1, 2027. The Committee shall submit a final report of its activities to the Governor, Speaker, and President Pro Tempore no later than June 1, 2030.

The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 2. The bill moves to the House floor.

Oklahoma State Data Center: [HB 3621](#) by Rep. Mark Lawson (R-Sapulpa) and Sen. Kristen Thompson (R-Edmond) creates the Oklahoma State Data Center to serve as the primary center for applied population research, the official contact with the United States Census Bureau, and the originator and official conductor of all special censuses for the State of Oklahoma. Some of the

responsibilities of the State Data Center is to collaborate with state, local, and tribal stakeholders to review and modify select statistical boundaries under the Census Bureau Participant Statistical Areas Program; and establish an affiliate network of state, local, tribal, nonprofit, and business leaders to share and promote data products, releases, events, training, and other Census Bureau resources.

The bill passed the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 27 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

GTCA/Public Trust: [HB 3648](#) by Rep. Preston Stinson (R-Edmond) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) modifies the definition of "public trust" 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 House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Sales Tax Exemption/Commercial Forestry Equipment: [HB 3661](#) by Rep. Eddy Dempsey (R-Valliant) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) removes the January 2027 expiration date on the sales tax exemption for commercial forestry equipment permanent making it permanent.

The bill passed the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 25 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Elections/Officials: [HB 3787](#) by Rep. Mark Chapman (R-Broken Arrow) prohibits a person who is not a qualified elector as described in Section 1 of Article III of the Oklahoma Constitution to file as a candidate for any municipal office. Such people are also prohibited from appointments to any municipal office. Also, no person may be elected, to, or serve on a board of education of a school district or technology center.

The bill passed the House Rules Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 1. The bill moves to the House floor.

Law Enforcement/Domestic Violence: [HB 3903](#) by Rep. Ellyn Hefner (D-OKC) and Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) directs law enforcement agencies to prepare detailed written domestic violence incidence reports. A dispatch log, call-for-service entry or similar notation does not satisfy the written incident report. The clerk of the district court shall accept for filing, file-stamp and docket each petition for a protective order when presented. A petition shall be filed of record regardless of disposition, including whether an emergency, ex parte, interim or final protective order is granted, denied, dismissed, or withdrawn. The petition and any attachments submitted shall be maintained as part of the case record, subject to confidentiality, redaction, sealing or expungement as provided by law. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall complete no fewer than two (2) hours of such training every two (2) years on domestic violence, substance abuse, addiction and mental health educational training.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

GTCA/Housing of Inmates: [HB 3974](#) by Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Faxon) and Senate Pro Tempore Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) limits the actions of the GTCA in an instance of a shared inmate housing facility by any combination of the state, cities, or counties, any otherwise allowable action or recovery by or on behalf of an inmate, shall be limited to the specific state, city, or county responsible for placing the inmate in such shared inmate housing facility.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

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 Government Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 3. The bill moves to the House floor.

Law Enforcement/Loitering: [HB 4104](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) adds three crimes to the classification list as B5 crimes. The crimes are: second and subsequent offense of watching, gazing, or looking upon a person in a clandestine manner for prurient interests; using photographic, electronic, or video equipment in clandestine manner for prurient interests; and second or subsequent offense of using photographic, electronic, or video equipment in clandestine manner to capture image of private area without consent. The bill also requires any person convicted of violating the provisions of this section shall be required to register as a sex offender under the Sex Offenders Registration Act. Any person who has been convicted, has been assigned a level designation of one, has been registered for a period of five (5) years, and has not been arrested or convicted for any felony or misdemeanor offense and no felony or misdemeanor charges are pending, shall be authorized to petition the district court in

the jurisdiction where the person resides for the purpose of removing the level designation and no longer subject to the requirements of the Sex Offenders Registration Act. Any person who has been twice convicted is not authorized to petition the court for relief.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

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 Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Outdoor Sirens/Tampering Fines: [HB 4107](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) makes it makes it unlawful to willfully or knowingly tamper with, activate, attempt to activate, or cause to be activated an outdoor warning siren without proper authorization. Punishment is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), up to one (1) year in the county jail or both fine and imprisonment. If an unauthorized activation causes a false emergency response or public panic, the offense becomes a felony punishable by up to Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), up to one (1) year in the county jail or both fine and imprisonment. The bill defines "authorized person" and "outdoor warning siren".

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Law Enforcement/Critical Infrastructure Facilities: [HB 4108](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) 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.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

Open Records/Law Enforcement Records: [HB 4144](#) by Rep. Robert Manger (R-OKC) and Sen. Warren Hamilton (R-McCurtain) require law enforcement agencies to make all arrest and incident reports available for public inspection.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 2. The bill moves to the House floor.

Workers' Compensation/First Responders: [HB 4260](#) by Rep. Neil Hays (R-Checotah) and Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) 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 & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the House floor.

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 Government Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 6. The bill is scheduled to be heard on the House floor on Monday, March 2nd.

Emergency Medical Services/Funding: [SB 206](#) by Sen. Tom Woods (R-Westville) and Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) declares solely for purposes of eligibility for federal funding that emergency medical services provided by an ambulance service managed by a municipality, county, ambulance service district, tribal entity, or other public entity to be considered essential services.

The bill was [amended](#) and passed the Senate Health & Human Services Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Firearms/Waterways: [SB 1258](#) by Sen. Kelly Hines (R-OKC) and Rep. Jim Olsen (R-Roland) allow the transportation of firearms by vessel on the waters of the state. The bill defines "vessel" as any device, other than a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

The bill passed the Senate on Monday by a [vote](#) of 41 to 7. The bill moves to the House.

Election/Room Costs: [SB 1286](#) by Sen. Christi Gillespie (R-Broken Arrow) requires any political subdivision that held an election conducted by a county election board on or after January 1, 2023, and that owns, rents, or leases a facility located in or near a precinct without a suitable polling place available to be furnished at no cost upon the written request of the secretary of the county election board.

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

OWRB/Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Investment Program: [SB 1346](#) by Sen. Tom Woods (R-Westville) and Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) requires OWRB to establish and administer a Water

and Wastewater Infrastructure Investment Program. The program shall include development of competitive loans for eligible entities seeking to develop and implement water or wastewater improvement projects. OWRB shall promulgate rules to effectuate the provisions of this act and loan criteria for the program. Loan applications shall be ranked on criteria. All loans must include a claw back provision in the funding agreement with an eligible entity. OWRB shall create and publish an interactive map on their website displaying the critical infrastructure needs showing the status of proposed and approved projects, estimated completion dates and any other information deemed necessary by OWRB. Loan monies shall be allocated based on the most current census data available and shall be as follows: twenty-five percent (25%) for projects located within a municipality or county with a population of more than four hundred thousand (400,000); twenty-five percent (25%) for projects located within a municipality or county with a population that is greater than thirty thousand (30,000) but less than four hundred thousand (400,000); and fifty percent (50%) for projects located within a municipality or county with a population of less than thirty thousand (30,000).

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee with the title stricken on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 22 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Motor Vehicle Sales/Excise Tax: [SB 1387](#) by Sen. Darcy Jech (R-Kingfisher) provides an individual liable for tax on a vehicle sold within six (6) months prior to or after the date of the transfer of title on the vehicle being purchased, gross receipts shall be calculated based only on the difference between the value of the vehicle sold and the actual sales price. If an individual sells a vehicle within six (6) months after the date of the transfer of title, the individual shall be entitled to a refund of the portion of tax paid, equal to one and twenty-five-one-hundredths percent (1.25%) of the value of the vehicle sold, not to exceed the total tax paid on the vehicle purchased by such individual. The bill still prohibits any sales and use taxes to be levied by cities, counties or other jurisdictions.

The bill passed the Senate Revenue & Taxation Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 2. The bill moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Municipal Solid Waste Management Systems: [SB 1471](#) by Sen. Mary Boren (D-Norman) authorizes a governing body of the city or town authorized to establish, operate, and maintain municipal solid waste management systems to levy and collect narrowly tailored fees to offset the costs of such solid waste management systems. Fees imposed shall be narrowly tailored, just reasonable, and equitable and may be based upon the quantity or character of the solid waste generated or managed. Incorporated cities or towns may adopt an ordinance establishing a solid waste mitigation fee related to the retail delivery, single-use products, auxiliary or plastic containers, or other activities that contribute to the municipal solid waste. The revenue generated must be used for solid waste reduction programs, recycling, litter prevention, pollution reduction efforts, and relevant education. A fee imposed shall be deemed a regulatory fee and not be considered a sales tax, use tax, excise tax, or occupation tax. The governing body may provide an ordinance for exemptions, reductions, or credits from a fee, including but not limited to, exemptions for governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, medical or pharmaceutical deliveries, small businesses, businesses in need of waiver, or programs serving low-income households.

Nothing shall be construed to preempt a political subdivision from enacting and implementing ordinances, resolutions, rules, fees, or regulations that are narrowly tailored to the following: reduce plastic waste in landfills; promote waste reduction; increase recycling or composting efforts; and mitigate harmful impacts to water quality, soil, wildlife, agriculture, and human health that are associated with auxiliary or plastic container waste.

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.

Emergency Medical Services: [SB 1561](#) by Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) gives the authority to the Commissioner of Health to impose disciplinary

actions for violations of the Oklahoma Emergency Responders Act.

The bill passed the Senate Health & Human Services Committee on Monday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate floor.

Law Enforcement/Sexual Assault Evidence Kits: [SB 1584](#) by Sen. George Burns (R-Pollard) and Rep. Melissa Provenzano (D-Tulsa) modifies the time frame which sexual assault evidence kits to be submitted for forensic testing from twenty (20) days to ten (10). Sexual evidence kits collected after the effective date must be processed by the appropriate accredited crime laboratory to which it was submitted within thirty (30) days after receipt of the kit.

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

Preemption/Data Centers/Nondisclosures: [SB 1619](#) by Sen. Warren Hamilton (R-McCurtain) prohibits municipalities from entering into any agreement with a person, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, corporation, limited liability company, trust or other legal entity that would prohibit the municipality from making a disclosure of the terms of any agreement with such entity that would make payment to or confer value upon such entity using an incentive, tax credit, direct or indirect payment offered to the entity if the benefit is provided through the use of municipal taxes. The provisions of this act do not require a municipality to disclose information of a proprietary nature with respect to a for-profit business entity if the information has been provided to the municipality. Such information must include, but not be limited to, trade secrets, costs of input used or consumed by the for-profit business, the labor costs, or information related to profit margins on goods or services sold by the for-profit business entities.

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.

Law Enforcement/Cold Case Investigation: [SB 1636](#) by Sen. Carri Hicks (D-OKC) authorizes a law

enforcement agency to review a case file regarding a cold case upon written application by a designated person to determine if a reinvestigation would result in probative investigative leads. The person or persons employed by a law enforcement agency and performing the case file review shall not have previously investigated the cold case. The law enforcement agency shall confirm receipt of the request for a case file review in writing within thirty (30) days. Only one case can be undertaken at a time with respect to the same victim. The bill sets a six (6) month time from for the law enforcement agency to reach a conclusion if a reinvestigation is needed. If a case file review is completed and the agency concludes that a reinvestigation is not warranted, no additional review shall be taken for the same cold cases for at least five (5) years, unless new evidence is materially significant is discovered. OSBI shall promulgate rules to effectuate this act.

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

Law Enforcement/Official Investigation: [SB 1730](#) by Sen. Kristen Thompson (R-Edmond) and Rep. Robert Manger (R-OKC) directs a law enforcement officer who receives a report or complaint that, if substantiated, would result in the defendant being required to register as a sex offender, to submit a record of the complaint or report to the OSBI within one (1) month of the report's receipt. The bill requires the record to include the name or identifying information of the accused, the nature of the alleged offense, the date, time, and location of the alleged offense, and the agency report number. The report shall be submitted regardless of whether an arrest is made. The report shall remain confidential except as authorized by law for official investigative or prosecutorial purposes.

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

Food Trucks: [SB 1749](#) by Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) modifies the inspecting authority for food trucks as it relates to the fire code. The bill changes to the Oklahoma Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board from the Oklahoma Liquefied Petroleum Gas

Administration. The Board shall promulgate rules related to such permits, including inspection requirements.

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

Law Enforcement/Impersonating an Officer: [SB 1936](#) by Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) and Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Faxon) makes it a Class DI offense, on or after January 1, 2026, to falsely hold oneself out as law enforcement personnel. A person found guilty of such a crime shall be subject to a maximum fine of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) as well as a term of imprisonment.

The bill passed the Senate on Monday by a [vote](#) of 48 to 0. The bill moves to the House.

Public Infrastructure Districts: [SB 2060](#) by Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) allows for the creation and operation of public infrastructure districts in Oklahoma. It defines "master development districts," which operate independently from municipal governments, governed by boards of supervisors with authority over improvements similar to those of city governments. The creation of such districts must have unanimous written consent from property owners within the district's boundaries and meet specific acreage or investment thresholds.

Master development districts are authorized to make extensive improvements, including infrastructure enhancements such as installing art or constructing recreational facilities. These districts can also engage in a wide array of public works projects both within and beyond their geographic boundaries.

The bill gives authority to districts, instead of municipalities, to issue bonds to fund improvements. Importantly, these bonds are considered separate from municipal debt and do not affect city debt limits or bonding capabilities.

The bill passed the Senate Revenue & Taxation Committee on Monday with the title stricken by a

[vote](#) of 6 to 4. The bill moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Zoning/Reversion Ordinances: [SB 2106](#) by Sen. Michael Brooks (D-OKC) and Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) requires a municipality to financially compensate the owner of a property within such municipality if such owner demonstrates that the municipality has used a reversion ordinance to change zoning to a prior designation, and that reversion has resulted in a negative financial impact on the value of such property. The municipality shall compensate the owner the difference between the appraised value prior to and after the zoning reversion.

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.

Restrictive Covenants/County Clerk: [SB 2139](#) by Sen. Carri Hicks (D-OKC) upon the adoption and recording of an ordinance amending a recorded plat to redact, remove, or strike the discriminatory language from existing plat, municipality shall provide the county clerk an Affidavit Regarding Correction of Plats, containing the title of the plat to be recorded, a reference to the book and page number, the section, township, and range of the plat, recitation of the discriminatory language to be redacted, removed, or stricken from the plat, and a copy of the existing plat identifying the discriminatory language to be redacted, removed, or stricken. Upon receipt of an Affidavit Regarding Correction of Plats, the county clerk shall enter a note stating the discriminatory language was redacted, removed, or stricken, providing the book and page number where the Affidavit Regarding Correction of Plats is located in the county clerk's office.

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

Municipal Liens/Notification: [SB 2154](#) by Sen. Aaron Reinhardt (R-Jenks) requires the municipal clerk to forward a copy of this statement by mail to any lienholder of record and shall obtain a receipt of

mailing from the postal service, with a receipt that indicates the date of mailing and the name and address of the mailer. Lienholder of record is defined to mean a person holding a lien on a property subject to municipal action as recorded on a deed or title in county of records.

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.