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### FIRST MAJOR DEADLINE HAS COME AND GONE

The first legislative deadline has come and gone. What was five weeks seemed like 47 weeks with the enormous amount of bills that were heard in committees. The bills that were not heard in their committees of origin are considered to have failed for this Session. We are still sorting through bills, but we know that we have gone from 5,000 eligible measures to 2,000. OML Priorities crossed their hurdles and are moving along.

The focus will shift to the House and Senate Floors for the next three weeks as we move towards the next deadline of bills being passed through their chamber of origin.

**OML Priority/Sales Tax Exemption/Public Trusts:** [HB 4178](#) by Clay Staires (R-Skiatook) and Sen. Christi Gillespie (R-Broken Arrow) expands a sales tax exemption for a public trust, organized pursuant to the provisions of Section 176 et seq. of Title 60 of the Oklahoma Statutes, with a municipality or public trust.

The bill passed the House Appropriations & Budget Committee with the title stricken and emergency removed on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 25 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

**OML Priority/Sales Tax Exemption/Public Trusts:** [HB 4304](#) by Rep. Rande Worthen (R-Lawton) and Sen. Kelly Hines (R-OKC) modifies the sales tax exemption for cities, towns, counties, rural water districts, public trusts and school districts and authorizes a political subdivision or agency to designate by contract an agent to make purchases of personal property wherein such sale would be exempt. The exemption applies to sales to the organization as well as to sales to any person with who the organization has duly entered into a construction contract, necessary for carrying out such contract or to any subcontractor to such a construction contract.

The bill passed the House Appropriations & Budget Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 24 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

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**OML Priority/Public Utility/Limiting Liability:** [HB 3883](#) by Rep. Josh Cantrell (R-Catoosa) and Sen. Mark Mann (D-OKC) 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 the 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. 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 Government Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

**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.

The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

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

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

#### **BILLS ON THE MOVE:**

**OPERS/DHS Law Enforcement:** [HB 1245](#) by Rep. Judd Strom (R-Copan) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) makes CLEET active commissioned agents and CLEET certified agents of the Department Human Services who were hired on or after July 1, 2025, participants in the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System. Those agents hired prior to July 1, 2025, have the option of purchasing service prior to July 1, 2025, or have the two-one-half percent (2.5%) retirement benefit-based service after June, 30, 2025 plus two percent (2%) on service prior to July 1, 2025.

The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

**Law Enforcement/Public Safety Technology Revolving Fund:** [HB 1250](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) creates the Public Safety Technology Revolving Fund for the purpose of funding grants to local law enforcement divisions to cover some of the costs associated with using technology to better interface with the public.

The bill passed the House Appropriations & Budget Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 27 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

**OLERS Contributions:** [HB 1739](#) by Rep. Mark Chapman (R-Broken Arrow) increases the employer and employee contribution rates for members of the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System (OLERS) and expands eligibility for the top base pay benefit computation to all OLERS retirees, including

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members who died in the performance of their duties, regardless of their entry date into the system. The employee contribution rate will increase from eight percent (8%) to nine percent (9%). The employer contribution increase rates will be phased in each year, until the rate is sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%).

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

**Pensions/COLAS:** [HB 1889](#) by Rep. Stan May (R-Broken Arrow) provides an inflated-adjusted retirement benefit for certain retired firefighters and police officers who are "tweeners". A "Tweeneer" is defined to be a retiree who did not qualify for automatic benefit adjustments granted to those eligible for retirement before May 26, 1983, and did not have the opportunity to participate in deferred option plans, which were introduced after November 1, 1989.

The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 16 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

**Pensions/OLERS/Fire Marshal's Office:** [HB 2116](#) by Rep. Mike Lay (R-Jenks) and Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) expands membership in the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System (OLERS) by adding CLEET-certified officers hired by the Office of the State Fire Marshal on or after July 1, 2026. Current law has these officers participating in the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System.

The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 15 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

**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 on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 80 to 12. The bill moves to the Senate.

**Open Meetings/Public Recordings:** [HB 2940](#) by Rep. Jim Olsen (R-Roland) and Sen. Lisa Standridge (R-Norman) 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 failed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 3 to 10.

**Taxation/Value of Vehicles:** [HB 2952](#) by Rep. Jim Grego (R-Wilburton) and Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) requires the sales price by any credits or discounts be given for a trade-in vehicle, if a trade-in was made as part of the transaction when considering the excise tax.

The bill passed the House Appropriations & Budget Committee with the title stricken and the emergency removed on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 25 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

**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 any state or local government body formed pursuant to the laws of this state, including, but not limited to, school districts, vocational education districts, cities, counties, public trusts, public authorities, commissions or other local governmental bodies. 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's 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

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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 Commerce & Economic Development Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

**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 on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 83 to 10. The bill moves to the Senate.

**DEQ/Aluminum: HB 2976** by Rep. Emily Gise (R-OKC) and Sen. Bryan Logan (R-Aden) directs DEQ to promulgate rules that establish the numeric water quality criteria for aluminum by December 1, 2028. DEQ may adopt or incorporate by reference any EPA criteria, guidance documents, or calculation tools necessary to implement the provisions of this section. DEQ shall include the aluminum criteria in each triennial review of Oklahoma Water Quality Standards required under Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act. DEQ shall revise such criteria as needed to reflect new science, updated EPA recommendations, or site-specific data, and shall submit any revisions to the US EPA for approval.

The bill passed the House Energy & Natural Resources Oversight Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 14 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

**Data Center Consumer Ratepayer Protection Act of 2026: HB 2992** by Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) and Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) creates the Data

Center Customer Protection Act of 2026. This bill requires any applicable governing body responsible for reviewing electric supplier rates to ensure that residential, commercial, and industrial customers are protected from paying unjust rates resulting directly from electric service to large load customers. The applicable governing body shall ensure that all rates are fair, just, and reasonable. Costs and revenues must be assigned and allocated among customers in compliance with cost causation principles.

The bill requires all electric suppliers to establish and maintain separate terms, conditions, and tariffs for electric service applicable to any large load customer. These terms, conditions, and tariffs must include credit requirements necessary to ensure that large load customers reimburse the utility for all costs fairly allocated. The term of service for large load customers must be at least ten (10) years. For any public power utility using tax-exempt municipal financing, the term of the agreement must be lesser than ten (10) years or the applicable I.R.S. Guideline.

This bill applies to all retail electric suppliers serving load in this state including investor-owned utilities regulated by the Corporation Commission, electric cooperatives, municipal electric utilities, and public power utilities. This bill authorizes the Corporation Commission to promulgate rules to effectuate the provision of this act. For electric retailers under the jurisdiction of the Corporation Commission for regulation of electric rates, this grants the Corporation Commission exclusive jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of this bill within its authority. Finally, retail electric suppliers must comply with this act as a condition of providing service to large load customers.

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

**Records Fees/Accident Response Records: HB 3045** by Rep. Mark Tedford (R-Tulsa) adds fire department and municipality to the entities prohibited from imposing an accident response fee; however, this prohibition does not apply to a volunteer fire department.

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The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

**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 on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 96 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

**Oklahoma Homeless Shelter Safety & Accountability Act:** [HB 3131](#) by Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) and Sen. Warren Hamilton (R-McCurtain) creates the Oklahoma Homeless Shelter Safety & Accountability Act. The act applies only to homeless shelter providers receiving state-administered funds and state-administered federal funds. Providers receiving federal funds directly from a federal agency without state administration are not subject to this act unless otherwise required by law. Department of Health is tasked with promulgating strictly limited rules to implement minimum standards. Each provider is required to comply with the tiered financial audit or review requirements and must prepare an annual public summary report. Providers are also required to submit annual aggregate data. The State Department of Health must not condition funding eligibility on achieving specific outcomes or performance benchmarks beyond those required for state administered funds. The State Department of Health must maintain a process for receiving complaints and no provider must retaliate against an individual who submits a complaint in good faith. A provider has 30 days upon written notice of a deficiency.

Nothing in this act supersedes or preempts local zoning, land use, building, or permitting authority, nor requires a political subdivision to approve or site a homeless facility.

The bill creates a nine (9) member Oklahoma Homeless Shelter Standards Advisory Board. One of the appointments is municipal representative appointed by OML, preferably from a municipality with demonstrated experience administering homeless shelter services. The Board ceases after five (5) years.

The bill passed the House Health & Human Services Oversight Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 6. The bill moves to the full House.

**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 on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 80 to 14. The bill moves to the Senate.

**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 Government Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 16 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

**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.

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The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

**Oklahoma Biosolids Land Application Research Pilot Program Act:** [HB 3403](#) by Rep. Kenton Patzkowsky (R-Balko) and Sen. Jack Stewart (R-Yukon) creates at OSU the Oklahoma Biosolids Land Application Research Pilot Program "Pilot Program". 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 Appropriations and Budget Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 24 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

**Forest Fire Prevention/Burn Bans:** [HB 3404](#) by Rep. Kenton Patzkowsky (R-Balko) and 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).

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The bill passed the House Appropriations & Budget Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 26 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

**Environment/Biosolids:** [HB 3411](#) by Rep. John George (R-Newalla) directs DEQ to conduct testing of biosolids or by a laboratory appropriately accredited to perform such an analysis in order to determine PFAS amounts prior to land application. Farmers and ranchers whose lands are being applied with biosolids must be given a written notification describing the potential hazards related to biosolids. Biosolids may not be applied to land where crops are grown for human consumption. Additionally, biosolids must not be applied in the same place more than once a year. DEQ must propose rules and implement the requirements of this measure no later than January 1, 2028.

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

**Competitive Bidding/Reverse Auction:** [HB 3417](#) by Rep. Judd Strom (R-Copan) allows political subdivisions, and certain public trusts to use a reverse auction bidding procedure to obtain bids for purchases of goods or services. The reverse auction must be a real-time bidding process and take place at a previously scheduled time and internet location. Suppliers will submit bids anonymous to each other. The reverse auction procedure must provide for the opening and closing of the bid, the posting of all bids electronically, and updating bids on a real-time basis by the political subdivision or public trusts.

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

**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 bid 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

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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 Government Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 15 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

**Corruption use of Information:** [HB 3419](#) by Rep. Judd Strom (R-Copan) prohibits current or former officers, employees, or contractors of a political subdivision from using nonpublic information for personal gain or benefit. Violations shall be grounds for removal.

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

**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. Liaisons prohibit 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.

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

**Municipal Bond Elections:** [HB 3435](#) by Rep. Jonathan Wilk (R-Goldsby) and Sen. Lisa Standridge (R-Norman) requires that every municipal bond proposal to be voted on by the citizens of the municipality to 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.

The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

**Eminent Domain/Judicial Review:** [HB 3453](#) by Rep. Jonathan Wilk (R-Goldsby) defines "de novo judicial review" to mean a plenary, independent judicial examination and determination of all legal and factual questions relating to public use, necessity, and compliance with applicable law, made without any deference to prior findings, assertions, conclusions, resolutions, interpretations or declarations by the condemning authority. The bill authorizes property owners facing eminent domain to have a hearing to challenge the public use or necessity of the property taking. If the condemning

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authority fails to justify the taking, the property owner can recover attorney fees, costs, and witness fees.

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

**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 on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 89 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

**Energy Storage/Preemption:** [HB 3464](#) by Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) and President Pro Tempore Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) provides legislative intent for regulating energy storage devices and solar energy facilities. For energy storage devices this bill requires mandatory compliance with national and international fire code standards. It allows fire authorities to require a third-party engineering

review prior to permitting. Requires site-specific emergency operation plans and training for local first responders at no cost. The bill prohibits local subdivisions from adopting standards which exceed those put forth in this bill. It also mandates detailed decommissioning processes and requires financial assurance to cover decommissioning costs.

For solar energy facilities this bill requires solar energy facility owners to provide landowners with access to payment statements and energy generation records. Solar energy facility owners are required to carry commercial liability insurance. The bill requires solar energy facility owners to report annually energy generation, nameplate capacity, and facility location to the Corporation Commission; and requires that the notification process outlined in this section occurs before construction.

For wind energy facilities this bill authorizes the State Fire Marshal to conduct permitting and review inspections in areas where no recognized local authority has jurisdiction. This bill enables the State Fire Marshal to conduct permitting and review inspections of energy storage devices, solar energy facilities, and wind energy facilities. The State Fire Marshal may charge up to six cents (\$0.06) per square foot for inspections. Fees are capped at Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) per facility with seventy-five percent (75%) of permitting and review fees allocated to local fire departments and the remaining twenty-five percent allocated to the State Fire Marshal.

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

**Sales Tax Exemption/OK Youth Entrepreneurs Promotion & Development Act of 2026:** [HB 3548](#) by Rep. Cody Maynard (R-Durant) and Sen. Julie McIntosh (R-Porter) creates the Oklahoma Youth Entrepreneurs Promotion and Development Act of 2026. The bill exempts sales and income taxes on tangible personal property and services sold by businesses primarily owned and operated by individuals under eighteen (18) years of age. Sales tax exemptions are valid when the business is a sole proprietorship, with limited adult assistance, and annual gross revenue remains under One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). The business needs to operate

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with the property owner's consent or as part of an event that registers youth vendors.

The bill modifies the Oklahoma taxable income code, providing an annual income exemption of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) derived from any lawful business activity for sole proprietors under eighteen (18). No person who is less than eighteen (18) years of age is required to obtain a business license from any entity of state or local government and are not subject to any fine or penalty as result of conducting such businesses for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days per year; provided they comply with all Oklahoma licensing and registration laws, including holding a current license or registration in good standing.

The bill passed the House Appropriations & Budget Committee on Tuesday with the title stricken by a [vote](#) of 28 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

**Law Enforcement/Riots:** [HB 3581](#) by Rep. Mark Lepak (R-Claremore) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) provides that the commission of assault and battery in the course of a riot is to be a Class D2 felony punishable by a term of no more than two (2) 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 more than ten (10) years imprisonment. The willful damage or vandalization of a government building during the course of a riot is to be a Class D3 felony punishable by not more than two (2) years if the damage was less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). If the damage was greater than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), the offense is a Class D1 felony punishable by not more than four (4) years imprisonment. The wearing of a mask, hood, covering, or disguise for the purpose of concealing identity in the course of a riot is to be a Class D3 felony. The punishment for the obstruction of a public street or highway is to be a Class D3 felony. The bill modifies the list of conditions 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 & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

**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 on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 89 to 3. The bill moves to the Senate.

**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 Government Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 15 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

**Emergency Management Teams:** [HB 3831](#) by Rep. Stan May (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. John Haste (R-Broken Arrow) recognizes the Oklahoma Task Force 1 (OK-TF1) as the official deployment asset team for urban search and rescue missions and for floods and disasters in Oklahoma; provided, OK-TF1 is not deployed for wildland firefighting. The bill creates the Oklahoma Task Force 1 Revolving Fund. Monies from the fund are to be used by OK-TF1 for costs incurred during in-state or out-of-state deployments and by the Oklahoma City and Tulsa task force teams for personnel, equipment, logistics, transportation, lodging, operational expenses, deployment readiness, and capability enhancements. Appropriated funds shall not be used for routine or daily fire department operations, staffing, facilities, maintenance or other expenses not related to the task force.

The bill passed the House Appropriations & Budget Committee with the title stricken and the emergency clause removed on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 27 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

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**Sales Tax Exemption/Organ and Tissue Donation:** [HB 3920](#) by Rep. Preston Stinson (R-Edmond) and Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) creates a new sales tax exemption, beginning January 1, 2027, on personal property or services to nonprofit organizations and their wholly owned subsidiaries that are engaged in providing services associated with human organ and tissue procurement and donation for transplantation and research.

The bill passed the House Appropriations & Budget Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 27 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

**Eminent Domain:** [HB 3968](#) by Rep. Annie Menz (D-Norman) and Sen. Lisa Standridge (R-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 & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 2. The bill moves to the full House.

**OK Talent Attraction & Relocation Act:** [HB 3984](#) by Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Faxon) and Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) creates the Oklahoma Talent Attraction and Relocation Act establishing a program to promote workforce recruitment through structured grants. The program, managed by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, aims to attract households from outside Oklahoma. "Eligible applicants" include cities, towns, counties, and nonprofit organizations committed to economic development. Grants are capped at Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) to support talent recruitment programming in a single municipality per fiscal year. Commerce shall disburse fifty percent (50%) upon the execution of a

grant contract and fifty percent (50%) after achieving half the stated relocation goal.

To apply, eligible entities must submit a detailed talent recruitment plan, including financial estimates and assurances that the incentives do not overlap with existing programs. Applicants must cover at least twenty percent (20%) of program costs and can only seek additional grants if previous goals are met. Households eligible for receiving relocation incentives must reside outside Oklahoma with a minimum income of Fifty-five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000) and apply through grant recipients.

Recipients must provide semiannual reports and, where grants exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00), undergo financial audits. Should a recipient misuse funds or fail to meet objectives, the Department may demand repayment with interest. A revolving fund supports the program's administration and implementation, exempt from fiscal limitations. A biennial report evaluates the program's effectiveness in terms of relocation success, fiscal impact, and broader economic benefits.

The bill passed the House Appropriations & Budget Committee with the title stricken on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 25 to 2. The bill moves to the full House.

**988 Mental Health Lifeline:** [HB 4092](#) by Rep. Kevin Norwood (R-Owasso) and Sen. Brenda Stanley (R-Midwest City) establishes a comprehensive mental health crisis response system focused on suicide prevention and crisis intervention in Oklahoma. The bill designates the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) as the primary oversight body for the 988 Mental Health Lifeline program, ensuring 24/7 availability of crisis intervention services. The bill defines several key components, including 911, 988 systems, behavioral health crisis services and systems, crisis stabilization services, and mobile crisis teams meant to address mental health emergencies effectively.

The bill creates a 988 Trust Fund, administered by ODMHSAS to support the establishment and enhancement of 988 Lifeline and associated services, such as crisis centers and mobile teams. Funding sources for the trust include state appropriations,

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federal funds, grants, gifts, and other financial products.

The Insurance Department and OHCA have the full authority to verify reimbursement to mandates enforcement of reimbursement practices by insurance providers to comply with the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act and related regulations.

The bill passed the House Appropriations & Budget Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 26 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

**Firearms/Restoration of Rights:** [HB 4125](#) by Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) updates the restoration of gun rights for nonviolent felons if an individual has not be convicted of any other misdemeanor or felony offense for a period of five (5) years since the completion of the sentence for the last misdemeanor or felony offense and no felony or misdemeanor charges are pending shall have their rights restored to possess, carry or transport any firearm. Upon restoration of the right to possess, carry, or transport a firearm, a nonviolent felon may have the right to perform the duties of a gunsmith and any other duties that require the restoration of his or her rights.

The bill passed the House Judiciary & Public Safety Oversight Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 13 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

**Cybersecurity/Liability:** [HB 4132](#) by Rep. Jay Steagall (R-Yukon) and Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Wilson) 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 for 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.

The bill passed the House Government Oversight Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 16 to 1. The bill moves to the full House.

**Law Enforcement/Bomb Squad:** [HB 4142](#) by Rep. Robert Manger (R-OKC) and Sen. Kelly Hines (R-OKC) modifies elements of crimes related to the unlawful use of bombs or explosive devices and updates related definitions. The bill clarifies language around explosive and incendiary devices, adds conspiracy provisions, and provides a construing

provision for lawful use of explosives. Any resulting change to the revenues collected by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) or change in the costs incurred by the Department of Corrections (DOC) are expected to be immaterial and/or absorbed by the agencies.

The bill passed the House floor on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 92 to 0. The bill moves to the Senate.

**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 on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 68 to 26. The bill moves to the Senate.

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**Oklahoma Quality Events Act:** [HB 4337](#) by Rep. Anthony Moore (R-Clinton) modifies the definition of "quality event" to include a nationally televised event by a nationally recognized sanctioned body.

The bill passed the House Appropriations & Budget Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 25 to 2. The bill moves to the full House.

**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.

The bill passed the House Appropriations & Budget Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 21 to 5. The bill moves to the full House.

**Sales Tax Exemption/Out-of-State Agriculture Permits:** [HB 4346](#) by Rep. Anthony Moore (R-Clinton) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) authorizes the State of Oklahoma to recognize and honor a valid out-of-state agricultural exemption permit or equivalent authorization issued to a person who is engaged in the business of farming or ranching. The "out-of-state agricultural exemption permit or equivalent authorization" means any permit, license, card, or other documentary proof issued by the state of Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, New Mexico or Missouri. OTC is authorized to promulgate rules, including but not limited to verification procedures and documentation requirements for out-of-state agricultural exemption permits or equivalent authorization.

The bill passed the House Appropriations & Budget Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 22 to 3. The bill moves to the full House.

**Environment/Air Emission Standards/Medical Waste:** [HB 4413](#) by Rep. Melodye Blancett (D-Tulsa) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) prohibits the burning of medical waste by hospitals who do not meet the current standards, emission limitations, operating requirements, and monitoring, reporting,

and permitting requirements applicable to medical waste incinerators promulgated by EPA.

The bill failed the House Appropriations & Budget Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 17.

**Water/Groundwater Measurement Programs:** [HB 4459](#) by Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) and Sen. Darcy Jech (R-Kingfisher) OWRB, beginning January 1, 2027, is required 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 flex allocation shall not require a new permit for existing holders. permit holders 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 one hundred fifty percent (150%) 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 was the House Energy & Natural Resources Oversight Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 3. The bill moves to the full House.

**Preemption/Religious Codes:** [HJR 1084](#) by Rep. Gabe Woolley (R-Broken Arrow) proposed state question amending Section 1, Article VII of the Oklahoma Constitution prohibiting a court, the state or any political subdivision from recognizing or enforcing any religious code, law, or practice that is in opposition to the Constitution of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma or the Constitution of the United States of America.

The joint resolution passed the House Rules Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 2. The resolution moves to the full House.

**Ad Valorem/Reimbursement:** [HJR 1087](#) by Speaker Kyle Hilbert (R-Bristow) is a measure to amend Section 68 of Article 10 in the Oklahoma

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Constitution. The measure requires the Legislature to enact laws establishing the levels and methodologies of reimbursement of common schools, county governments, cities and towns, EMS districts, vocation-technical schools, junior colleges, county health departments and libraries for revenues lost to the manufacturing exemption for ad valorem. The measure also provides that the level of reimbursement be included in the assessed valuation of taxable property when computing the limit on indebtedness of political subdivisions.

The joint resolution has passed the House Rules Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 12 to 0. The bill moves to the full House.

**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 passed the Senate on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 42 to 5. The bill moves to the House.

**Racing Facility & Racetrack Qualified Defense Act:** [SB 1195](#) by Sen. Kendal Sacchieri (R-Blanchard) and Rep. Eric Roberts (R-OKC) creates the Racing Facility & Racetrack Qualified Defense Act. The bill defines "racing facility" as a designated area where competitive vehicle and motorsport races are conducted. Operation of a racing facility in substantial compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations applicable to activities occurring at the facility shall be deemed prima facie evidence that a nuisance does not exist. The defense does not apply if the racing facility fails to operate in compliance with applicable laws and regulations or there has been a substantial change in the noise level of the facility since the permit was granted. No person shall bring a nuisance claim against a racing facility unless such person is the legal owner or possessor of real property within a three-mile radius of the facility, the legal owner or possessor had established his or her right in the real property prior to the first date of operation of the racing facility and the legal owner or possessor can show physical harm from the operation of facility. The provisions

shall not affect or defeat the right of any person or business entity to recover damages for any injuries or damage sustained for any tort.

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

**OWRB/THRIVE Act:** [SB 1332](#) by Sen. Julia Kirt (D-OKC) and Rep. Mark Lawson (R-Sapulpa) creates the Targeted Housing and Responsible Infrastructure for Vital Economies (THRIVE) Act. OWRB shall establish and administer the THRIVE Communities Program. The purpose of the program is to develop competitive zero-interest loans for eligible entities seeking to implement housing plans that need water, wastewater, or stormwater projects for housing development completion. OWRB shall establish the criteria for the program. All loans shall include a clawback in the funding agreement with an eligible entity. OWRB shall publish an annual report and post on the OWRB website. Any eligible entity receiving monies from the THRIVE Communities Program shall prioritize the utilization of contractors, businesses and vendors that are based in this state. OWRB shall promulgate rules and the loan criteria for the program.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 22 to 1. The bill moves to the full Senate.

**Law Enforcement/9-8-8 Lifeline Revolving Fund:** [SB 1369](#) by Sen. Brenda Stanley (R-Midwest City) and Rep. Kevin Norwood (R-Owasso) creates a revolving fund for the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to be designated the 9-8-8 Lifeline Revolving Fund for the purposes of sustaining and expanding operations of a 9-8-8 suicide and crisis lifeline in this state.

The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 24 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

**Courts/Audio & Video Recording:** [SB 1386](#) by Sen. Christi Gillespie (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Derrick Hildebrandt (R-Catoosa) requires the Supreme Court to establish a pilot project for the use of audio and video recording equipment capable of

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broadcasting and livestreaming in courtrooms and the preservation of public access to judicial records. The pilot project shall be implemented in a minimum of twelve courtrooms, with preference given to courtrooms without a court reporter.

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

**Open Meetings Act/Public Comments:** [SB 1420](#) by Sen. Mark Mann (D-OKC) and Rep. Daniel Pae (R-Lawton) allows public comment during public meetings while allowing public bodies to impose uniform and reasonable limits on participation.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 5 to 3. The bill moves to the full Senate.

**County Home Rule Charter:** [SB 1552](#) by Minority Leader Julia Kirt (D-OKC) and Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) authorizes a county with a population of eight hundred seventy-five thousand (875,000) which contains a municipality with a population of seven hundred thousand (700,000) to adopt or amend a County Home Rule Charter.

The bill was [amended](#) and passed the Senate Rules Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of . The bill moves to the full Senate.

**Emergency Medical Services:** [SB 1561](#) by Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) and Rep. Nick Archer (R-Elk City) 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 on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 46 to 0. The bill moves to the House.

**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 was passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 20 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

**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 Four Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$480.00) for an initial poultry house contractor license and Three Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$320.00) for renewal poultry contractor license.

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 35 to 9. The bill moves to the House.

**Water/Groundwater:** [SB 1928](#) by Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) and Rep. Anthony Moore (R-Clinton) removes the meter use requirement. The bill authorizes OWRB 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 flex allocation shall not require a new permit for existing permit holders. An applicant for a five-year flex allocation is required to submit an annual usage report of the prior year's usage from a Board-approved water measurement system; and pay the annual groundwater permit fee. A permit holder is allowed to exceed the determined annual allocation in any year; provided that the applicant shall adhere to the cumulative annually determined allocation of the basin or subbasin over the five-year period. The permit holder shall not exceed permitted allocation by over one hundred fifty percent (150%). This bill does not apply to domestic wells.

The bill passed the Senate Energy Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 10 to 0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

**Eminent Domain/Landowner's Bill of Rights:** [SB 1945](#) by Sen. Lisa Standridge (R-Norman) and Rep. Annie Menz (D-Norman) requires an acquiring

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agency to provide a statement to a property owner at the presentation of first offer. A bona fide good-faith effort to negotiate shall include the acquiring entity providing the property owner with any appraisal or damage assessment relied upon by such entity.

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

**Plumbing License:** [SB 1949](#) by Sen. Bryan Logan (R-Paden) removes the definition of "master plumber". Any former master plumber shall be known as a plumbing contractor. The bill defines "utility contractors" to mean a corporation, partnership, or sole proprietorship in good legal standing that specializes in the construction, installation, maintenance, and repair of underground infrastructure systems, including water, sanitary sewer, storm or drainage sewer, or gas, on behalf of a utility owner or the property owner. The bill adds an exception to the Plumbing License Law of 1955 when the work is performed by a utility contractor: plumbing work on private property in an area that extends from a public right-of-way or public easement to not less than five (5) feet from a building or structure, downspout boots or fire risers.

The bill passed the Senate Business & Insurance Committee on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 8 to 2 . The bill moves to the Senate floor.

**Municipal Audits:** [SB 2130](#) by Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) and Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) exempts municipalities with a total revenue of less than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) across all funds, including component units of which the municipality is a beneficiary, and a population of five hundred (500) from being required to prepare an audit or agreed-upon-procedures engagement solely as a condition to be eligible or a recipient of a grant from any federal, state or local source.

The bill passed the Senate Local & County Government Committee on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 9 to 1. The bill moves to the full Senate.

**State Fire Marshal Commission:** [SB 2174](#) by President Pro Tempore Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) recreates the State Fire Marshal Commission

changing a few of the representatives. Upon the effective date of this act, any expiration or vacancy of the term of a currently appointed member shall be filled with by the appointing authority specified in this section.

The bill passed the Senate Rules Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 18-0. The bill moves to the full Senate.

**Ad Valorem/Reimbursement:** [SJR 48](#) by President Pro Tempore Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) and Speaker Kyle Hilbert (R-Bristow) submits to a vote of the people a constitutional amendment that modifies ad valorem tax reimbursements paid to counties and other taxing jurisdictions for lost revenue as it relates to the ad valorem tax exemption provided to manufacturers. The SJR limits the state's requirement to reimburse such jurisdictions to an amount necessary to equal the property tax revenue that the counties and other taxing jurisdictions received before the new or expanding manufacturing facility was placed into service.

The bill passed the Senate Rules Committee on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 16-2.