OKLAHOMA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
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Advocate
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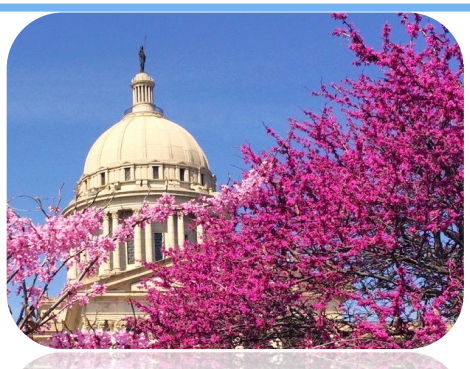

OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE BALANCES FAREWELLS AND KEY VOTES AS SESSION NEARS FINISH LINE

It was a full and fast-moving week at the Oklahoma Legislature, blending meaningful farewells with significant policy action as lawmakers push toward adjournment. Members took time to recognize departing colleagues and reflect on their service, while still advancing key legislation across both chambers. Several high-profile bills cleared critical votes, with a few more still waiting to be heard such as the TSET Reset Resolution, HJR 1077. We remain vigilant to protect local control from any unforeseen issues that could arise in conference committee. With deadlines tightening, the pace remains brisk as legislators work to finalize priorities and close out the session.

An OML priority bill is sitting on the Governor's desk awaiting action.

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.

If signed, the bill goes into effect on November 1, 2026.

OKLAHOMA "COMMON CENTS" BILL CLEARS SENATE, HEADS TO HOUSE

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.

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a vote of 46 to 0. The bill goes back to the House to accept or reject the Senate amendments.

PROPERTY TAX RESOLUTION ADVANCES TO SECRETARY OF STATE, BECOMES SQ 847

Ad Valorem Tax/Homestead Exemption: SJR 39 by President Pro Tempore Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) and Speaker Kyle Hilbert (R-Bristow) refers to the people a vote amending Section 8B of Article 10 of the Oklahoma Constitution, which limits the annual growth of the fair cash value of real property shall note increase by more than five percent (5%) for tax years 2013 through 2026 and four percent (4%) for tax year 2027 and subsequent tax years. The resolution further limits the growth to three percent (3%) for tax years 2013 through 2026 and one and seventy-five hundredths percent (1.75%) for tax year and subsequent tax years for real property for which a homestead exemption is granted and real property classified as agricultural land.

The bill replaces the existing senior freeze for qualifying seniors with a tiered cap on annual valuation increases based on income. Income thresholds are tied to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's county median income. The default cap is one and seventy-five hundredths percent (1.75%), but lower-income seniors would receive reduced caps.

The resolution passed the Senate on Monday by a vote of 40 to 9, but the vote to place it on the August ballot failed 26 to 20. The resolution is now State Question 847 and will be on the November ballot.

PROTECTING CONSUMERS: DATA CENTER BILL CLEARS SENATE, BACK TO HOUSE

Data Center Consumer Ratepayer Protection Act: HB 2992 by Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) and Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) creates the Data Center Consumer Protection Act of 2026. The bill requires governing bodies responsible for reviewing electric supplier rates to ensure that residential, commercial, and industrial customers are protected from paying unjust rates resulting directly from serving large load customers. The governing body is required to ensure that all rates are fair, just and reasonable and costs and revenues are assigned and allocated among customers in accordance with cost causation principles. The bill requires electric suppliers to establish and maintain separate terms and conditions of electric service applicable to any large load customer. The terms of service for large load customers shall be at least ten (10) years. This act applies to all electric suppliers serving load in this state, including investor-owned utilities regulation by OCC, electric cooperatives, municipal electric utilities and independent power producers. OCC may promulgate rules. Electric suppliers are required to comply with this act as a condition of providing service to large load customers.

Any large load customer, or any developer, owner, or entity acting on behalf of a large load customer, that plans to purchase any land in this state outside of an industrial development project or a municipality shall be required to notify the

Corporation Commission, the county commissioners of the county in which the land is to be purchased, and any property owners within a five (5) mile radius of the proposed land purchase at least sixty (60) days before the proposed land purchase transaction is to take place. Such notice shall be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation, published in the county where the land is to be purchased, and include information for a public meeting. Such notice by publication shall be published in two (2) consecutive weekly issues of the newspaper, with the first publication to be at least thirty (30) days prior to the date set for the public meeting.

Any large load customer, or any developer, owner, or entity acting on behalf of a large load customer, who fails to provide proper notice as required by this section, shall be subject to an administrative penalty not to exceed One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($1,500.00) per day, per violation.

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a vote of 44 to 2. The House rejected the amendments on Thursday and requested conference. Senate conferees are Green, Woods, Hamilton, Kern, Frix, and Dossett.

BILLS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR STITT

Law Enforcement/Impersonating an Officer: SB 1936 by Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) and Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Faxon) make 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 goes into effect on November 1, 2026.

BILLS MOVE TO GOVERNOR'S DESK

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 Senate on Monday by a vote of 32 to 15. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, April 28th.

OLERS Contributions: HB 1739 by Rep. Mark Chapman (R-Broken Arrow) and President Pro Tempore Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) 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 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 increased rates will be phased in each year, until the rate is sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%).

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a vote of 41 to 4. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, April 28th.

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 believes 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 Senate on Tuesday by a vote of 46 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, April 28th.

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 Senate on Wednesday by a **vote** of 46 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Thursday, April 30th.

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 an 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 Senate on Tuesday by a **vote** of 45 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, April 28th.

Sunsets: **HB 3320** by Rep. Mike Osburn (R-Edmond) and Sen. Kristen Thompson (R-Edmond) repeals several sunset boards. This includes repealing 11 O.S. 2021, Section 51-104 which created PERB; 59 O.S. 2021, Section 1000.2 which created CIB; and 74 O.S. 2021, Sections 3901 et seq. which created the Sunset laws.

The bill passed the Senate on Wednesday by a **vote** of 33 to 13. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Thursday, April 30th.

Delinquent Court Fines: **HB 3321** by Rep. Mike Osburn (R-Edmond) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) directs the Cost Administration Implementation Committee to develop and implement a plan for gathering the following data per county and compiling the data in a report due annually: 1. How many individuals were booked solely on cost arrest warrants and the length of time the individuals were detained or held; 2. How many third-party vendors each county is using for the court cost compliance program; 3. How much money was collected using the court cost compliance program per county; 4. How much money was collected per individual per county following the execution of a cost arrest warrant; and 5. Any other information that the Cost Administration Implementation Committee believes would be helpful for the Legislature to understand government spending on collecting court financial obligation.

The Committee shall submit to the AG a preliminary report with its plan and preliminary data no later than December 31, 2026, with annual reports being due on November 15 every year thereafter. The preliminary report shall include information about any additional resources necessary to collect the information set forth in subsection N of this section. State agencies, district courts, and counties shall cooperate with the Cost Administration Implementation Committee to collect the above-referenced information; provided, however, no entity shall be required to expend funds to collect

the required information if the information is not already collected.

The bill passed the Senate on Wednesday by a vote of 45 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Wednesday, April 29th.

Competitive Bidding/Reverse Auction: HB 3417 by Rep. Judd Strom (R-Copan) and Sen. Jerry Alvord (R-Wilson) allows political subdivisions or any public trusts to use a reverse auction bidding procedure to obtain bids for purchases of goods or services of any type of kind. The reverse auction must be a real-time bidding process and take place at a previously scheduled time and internet location and for a previously established duration, in which multiple suppliers, anonymous to each other, submit bids to provide the goods or services. The reverse auction procedure may be used as an alternative to any state law applicable to the purchase of the goods and services.

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. All bids submitted electronically through the reverse auction bidding process are subject to the same public disclosure laws that govern bids received pursuant to any other law of this state governing procedures for a political subdivision or public trust. Remedies are available to the political subdivision and public trusts. The procedure may be used to obtain acquisitions or award contracts for all needed operations or purchase orders.

The bill also repeals 11 O.S. 2021, Sections 17-115 and 17-115.1.

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a vote of 42 to 2. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, April 28th.

Corruption use of Information: HB 3419 by Rep. Judd Strom (R-Copan) and Sen. Jack Stewart (R-Yukon) 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 Senate on Tuesday by a vote of 43 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, April 28th.

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 Senate on Wednesday by a vote of 43 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Wednesday, April 29th.

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 Senate on Wednesday by a vote of 30 to 16. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Thursday, April 30th.

Appropriations/OWRB: HB 4075 by Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Faxon) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) appropriates Twenty-five Million Nine Hundred Ninety-eight Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-eight Dollars ($25,998,798.00) to OWRB to complete ongoing projects that have received prior appropriations from the Statewide Recovery Fund or to target statewide strategic water infrastructure projects. Such funds shall be utilized in a manner consistent with the recommendations adopted by the Joint Committee on Pandemic Relief Funding on April 15, 2026. The bill also allows OWRB to transfer and reallocate funds between previously authorized projects as needed and requires the agency to submit quarterly reports to the Legislature detailing program progress, budgeting, and expenditures. No later than seven (7) calendar days from the date of such request, the Director of OMES shall comply with such request and verify to the requesting agency that such deposit or transfer has been completed. OWRB may enter into MOUs with other agencies. OWRB is authorized to enter into contracts with financial institutions as may be necessary to hold and disseminate grant funds.

The bill passed the Senate on Monday by a vote of 46 to 1. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, April 28th.

Appropriations/Emergency Management: HB 4077 by Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Faxon) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) appropriates Ten Million Five Hundred Eighty-two Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-six Dollars ($10,582,596.00) to administer the Emergency Relief and Impacts Grant Program. Such funds shall be used in a manner consistent with the recommendations adopted by the Joint Committee on Pandemic Relief Funding on April 15, 2026. Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this act. ODEM shall retain no more than two percent (2%) of the funds to reimburse costs incurred by ODEM; or costs incurred on the agency's behalf, associated with the administration of the appropriate funded and programming required. No funds shall be retained that would be disallowable under ARPA of 2021. The bill directs ODEM to submit quarterly reports to the Legislature detailing program progress, budgeting, and expenditures.

The bill passed the Senate on Monday by a vote of 48 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, April 28th.

OHCA/Municipal Liens: SB 1198 by Sen. Mark Mann (D-OKC) and Rep. Dell Kerbs (R-Shawnee) directs the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) to file a release of the liens on properties on which OHCA has liens upon request of a municipality if the property is owned by such municipality and is to be transferred to a not-for-profit entity for a qualified project or for another public purpose deemed suitable by the municipality. "Nuisance property" is defined as

property that is deemed unmarketable or unusable due to the existence of liens in excess of the property's fair market value as shown by the county assessor's office of due to environmental problems or conditions that exist on the property that would cost more to remedy than the fair market value of the property as shown by the county assessor's office, or property in which abatement liens have been placed upon the property by a municipality in excess of twenty-five percent (25%) of the property's fair market value as shown by the county assessor's office.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a vote of 79 to 2. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Wednesday, April 29th.

Law Enforcement/Copper Theft: SB 1232 by Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) and Rep. Eddy Dempsey (R-Valliant) creates a felony offense for any person who enters any premises, easement, or right-of-way with intent to steal or remove without consent of the owner or with the intent to aid or assist in stealing or removing with the consent of the owner, any copper wire, copper cable, or copper or any item that is known or reasonably should be known as ordinarily used by, belonging to, or identified with markings indicating ownership by a telephone, telegraph, internet, broadcast, or wireless communication company that results in damages equal to or exceeding One Hundred Thousand Dollars ($100,000.00). Such person shall be subject to a fine of up to Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) and/or a term of imprisonment equal to penalty provisions for Class C2 felony offenses.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a vote of 89 to 3. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Wednesday, April 29th.

DEQ/Environmental Permitting Act: SB 1246 by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) and Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) requires DEQ to publish information instructing the public on how it may view documents, subscribe to updates, and receive electronic notice of public participation opportunities related to pending Tier II applications and agency decisions. Such notification must be published on the Electronic Environmental Permit Application Docket on the Department's website. Tier III applications shall include electronic notifications and publication of denials, responses to comments, and opportunities for an administrative permit hearing on the Electronic Environmental Permit Application Docket on the Department's website. The measure strikes language requiring the Department to post notice of such opportunities and hearings in a local newspaper.

The bill passed the House on Thursday by a vote of 81 to 2. The bill moved to the Governor on April 30th.

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

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a vote of 88 to 2. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, April 28th.

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 House on Wednesday by a vote of 52 to 29. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Wednesday, April 29th.

Local Development & Enterprise Zone Incentive Leverage Act: SB 1826 by Sen. Aaron Reinhardt (R-Jenks) and Rep. Mike Osburn (R-Edmond) eliminates the sunset date provisions.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a vote of 55 to 30. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Thursday, April 30th.

Law Enforcement/Fraudulent Conveyance: SB 2072 by Sen. Warren Hamilton (R-McCurtain) and Rep. Mike Osburn (R-Edmond) prohibits a fee from being charged by the county clerk or court clerk for the filing of an order to quiet title to restore title to the rightful property owner due to fraudulent conveyance. Upon filing the county clerk shall deliver a copy of the notice to the district attorney and the local law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction where the property is located.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a vote of 87 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Thursday, April 30th.

BILLS ON THE MOVE

Emergency Management/Camp Plans: HB 1675 by Rep. Josh Cantrell (R-Kingston) and Sen. Ally Seifried (R-Claremore) requires all youth camps, camp facilities and outdoor programs operating within this state, except for programs solely on a single-day basis with no oversight component; and programs operated exclusively by a parent or legal guardian for his or her own children, to conduct a site-specific hazard assessment prior to licensure or renewal and to develop an emergency action plan. The site-specific hazard assessment on or before January 1, 2027, must include response protocols for each severe weather hazard applicable to the site, evacuation routes, and other items. Additionally, youth camps must maintain two independent methods of receiving severe weather alerts, an internal communication system, procedures for notifying parents or guardians, and provide access to shelters. Potential threats of severe weather and emergency response procedures must be disclosed to all participants. Camp staff are required to receive annual training on emergency procedures and hazard recognition training and conduct periodic drills. A copy of the emergency action plan must be kept on file with the applicable local emergency management agency. The regulating authority shall adopt rules necessary to implement this act. The regulating authority may impose corrective action plans, civil penalties, and suspend or revoke licensure for material noncompliance. A "regulating authority" means the emergency management director of the county in which the camp facility, youth camp, or outdoor program is located.

The bill passed the Senate on Wednesday by a vote of 30 to 16. The bill goes back to the House to accept or reject the Senate amendments.

Public Competitive Bidding Act: HB 3418 by Rep. Judd Strom (R-Copan) and Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) establishes procedures for public construction contracts between Twenty-five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) and less than Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) to be let and awarded to the lowest responsible bidder by receipt of written bids or awarded on the basis of competitive quotes to the lowest responsible qualified contractor. The bill removes language for industrial and cultural trust contracts from the Public Competitive Bidding Act. Specifications require electronic bid processes to be auditable via live streams, thereby negating the need for a public opening. The bill establishes felony charges for the misuse of insider information regarding bid proposals and terms. Public disclosures of ownership interest in bidding companies are encouraged by requiring full disclosure of beneficial ownership to avoid circumventing rules through intermediary companies. The bill sets public agency procedures for procurement of goods and services above Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000.00), with detailed bid competitive processes and enforcement of sole-source and sole-brand bidding procedures. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A of this section, a public agency may conduct preliminary procurement activities for the purpose of developing accurate specifications, determining appropriate materials, and estimating project costs. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, market research, requests for information, vendor outreach, product demonstrations, site visits, and pre-bid industry engagement.

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a vote of 44 to 0. The bill goes back to the House to accept or reject the Senate amendments.

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 instances in which the state or political subdivision is not liable for a loss or claim that results from a riot unless the loss or claim results from instances where the state or political subdivision was aware of the dangerous condition and failed to act.

The bill passed the Senate on Monday by a vote of 40 to 8. The bill goes back to the House to accept or reject Senate amendments.

Finance/OK Economic Development Pooled Finance Act: HB 3979 by Rep. Trey Caldwell (R-Faxon) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) increases the financing caps under the Oklahoma Economic Development Pooled Finance Act, raising both the Infrastructure Pool and Economic Development Pool limits from One Hundred Million Dollars ($100,000,000.00) to One Hundred Twenty-five Million Dollars ($125,000,000.00).

The bill passed the Senate on Wednesday by a vote of 32 to 12. The bill goes back to the House to accept or reject Senate amendments.

Court Cost Compliance Program: HB 4237 by Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) requires the court at sentencing to impose any fines, court costs, fees, and assessments and offer to conduct, contemporaneously with sentencing, an ability-to-pay hearing to determine the ability of the defendant to satisfy such financial obligations. Defendants who show sufficient evidence of a presumption pursuant to paragraph 5 of this subsection shall be relieved of the debt through a hardship waiver. The court shall make an ability to pay determination at such hearing. Any waiver of such hearing shall occur in open court after the defendant is advised of the cost hearing process.

The bill passed the Senate on Wednesday by a vote of 37 to 8. The bill goes back to the House to accept or reject the Senate amendments.

Economic Development/Income Tax Credit/Sunset: HB 4426 by Speaker Kyle Hilbert (R-Bristow) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) extends the expiration date of the Strategic Industrial Development Enhancement (SIDE) tax credit from December 31, 2027, to December 31, 2032.

The bill passed the Senate on Wednesday by a vote of 28 to 14. The bill moves back to the House to accept or reject the Senate amendments.

Wind Energy Facilities/Setback Requirements: SB 2 by Sen. Grant Green (R-Wellston) provides that after June 1, 2025, no wind energy facility may be constructed if the base of any tower is located at a distance of less than: 1) one-quarter (1/4) nautical mile from the nearest point on the outside wall of a residential dwelling; and 2) one-quarter (1/4) nautical mile from the nearest point of any nonparticipating property.

The bill was assigned to conference committee on Monday. The Senate conferees are Daniels, Jech, Kirt, Paxton, Rader and Rosino.

Scenic Rivers: SB 133 by Sen. George Burns (R-Pollard) and Rep. Jim Grego (R-Wilburton) - The Conference Committee Substitute for SB 133 creates the 11-member Southeast Scenic Rivers Commission as a state agency and directs it to manage designated rivers. The Commission must establish minimum standards for local governments to follow. The standards will serve to protect the scenic rivers while allowing other uses of the land. The rules will prohibit dispersing water elsewhere, using water for non-local agriculture, and building new dams.

Further, the measure authorizes the Commission to own and manage public access points, issue use permits, and buy land and easements. The Commission can also review and override decisions made by local governments if the decisions do not follow the Commission's standards.

The measure designates the following rivers and river sections as southeast scenic rivers:

• Glover River in McCurtain County;
• Kiamichi River in Pushmataha County above the Hugo Lake Army Corps project boundary and in LeFlore County to the boundary of the Ouachita National Forest;
• The Little River in McCurtain, Pushmataha, and LeFlore Counties; and
•The Mountain Fork River in LeFlore and McCurtain Counties above the elevation of 600 feet.

Lastly, the measure prohibits a state agency from approving a dam on one of the designated rivers unless the Legislature approves it, or the dam will serve nearby communities and will not harm the river.

The House assigned the bill to the House Energy & Natural Resources Oversight Committee.

Municipal Zoning/Planning Commission: SB 647 by Sen. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) and Rep. Preston Stinson (R-Edmond) provides that while comprehensive plans are allowed to be used as a guide in the decision-making process, determinations shall be made in light of objective and relevant facts as well as utilizing processes and requirement outlined in the municipal code. The notice and hearing provisions may be applicable, are intended to provide members of the public with a right to be heard, explain how they think their interests are affected, and bring to the attention of the governing body objective and relevant facts. Information presented from the public that is neither objective nor relevant shall not be determinative in land use application proceedings. The bill establishes that municipal zoning decisions are deemed valid unless the challenging party proves the ordinance lacks a substantial relation to public health, safety or general welfare of the public in light of objective and relevant facts, or if a zoning decision constitutes an arbitrary exercise of police power. The bill establishes that municipal plating decisions are quasi-judicial in nature and gives the planning commission and the governing body of a municipality the discretion to determine a plats compliance with regulations, codes, and ordinances. In the case of a preliminary or final plat denial, the city is required to identify the basis for denial. Governing bodies are prohibited from basing their decision making on presented information that is neither objective nor relevant.

The Senate rejected the House amendments on Monday and requested conference. The Senate conferees have been named: Burns, Frix, Goodwin, Hamilton, Logan, and Stanley. The bill has been assigned to the House Government Oversight Conference Committee.

Law Enforcement/9-8-8 Lifeline Revolving Fund: SB 1369 by Sen. Brenda Stanley (R-Midwest City) and Rep. Kevin Norwood (R-Owasso) requires the State of Oklahoma to designate the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to have primary oversight over the suicide prevention and crisis service activities and essential coordination with designated 988 Lifeline Crisis Centers. The designated 988 Lifeline Crisis Centers must meet requirements and guidelines. The Department will have also have primary oversight of suicide prevention and crisis service activities as well as the Department will make rules to allow appropriate information sharing and communication between and across crisis and emergency response systems. The state or related public health authority and designated 988 Lifeline Crisis Centers must use technology to enhance communication and coordination in the delivery of behavioral health crisis services and for data collection, analysis, and sharing.

The bill creates the "988 Lifeline Revolving Fund" for the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, which will expend funds for staffing, supporting, and operating the 988 Lifeline system.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a vote of 85 to 7. The bill goes back to the Senate to accept or reject the House amendments.

Funding/Olympics: SB 1378 by Sen. Kristen Thompson (R-Edmond) and Rep. Mark Lawson (R-Sapulpa) creates the "Olympics in Oklahoma Revolving Fund". The Fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies received by the Department from appropriations, donations, grants, and other sources of funding for the purpose of hosting the 2028 Olympic Games. The bill provides that at least five percent (5%) of all funds dispensed from the Fund shall be awarded to contracts fulfilled by Oklahoma based businesses, subject to the approval of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a vote of 78 to 8. The bill goes back to the Senate to accept or reject the House amendments.