

14-26

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SESSION HAS COME TO AN END...SORT OF

Session has come to an end...sort of. On Monday the House introduced and passed [HCR 1027](#) by Rep. Josh West (R-Grove) and Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) which provides for a provisional Sine Die Adjournment of the Legislative Session with an official Sine Die on Thursday, May 14th. The Senate followed suit on Tuesday. This marks the earliest Sine Die in several years. The timeline gives Governor Stitt five days to act on any remaining legislation that reaches his desk; while also preserving a window for lawmakers to reconvene and attempt overrides of any vetoes.

On Wednesday, the Senate adjourned to the call of the chair while the House worked until almost Midnight. The House and Senate have for the most part completed their work for this Session. It appears that next week will mark the conclusion of the session. We anticipate that the House will return next Thursday to finalize session, while the Senate is expected to come back Wednesday and Thursday to finish their work.

During the final week, we saw additional movement on our priority legislation. On Monday, the House voted for HB 3075 and sent it to the Governor. [HB 3075](#) by Rep. Derrick Hildebrant (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 from 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.

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

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 47 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, May 5th.

OML Priority/Municipal Enforcement & Penalties: [SB 1775](#) by Sen. Roland Pedersen (R-Burlington) and Rep. Eddy Dempsey (R-Valliant) clarifies that penalties for certain municipal ordinances may be equal to penalties in state statute. If any fine or deferral fee in lieu of a fine, as stated in a municipal ordinance, or any other fine or fee schedule adopted by a municipality, exceeds the maximum amount authorized by this section or other applicable statutes for the same offense, the amount is void and enforceable to the extent of the excess amount and shall be deemed reformed and reduced by operation of law to the maximum lawful amount.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 91 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Thursday, May 7th.

DATA CENTER CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT HEADS TO GOVERNOR'S DESK

The Data Center Consumer Protection Act, [HB 2992](#), successfully passed both the House and Senate on Tuesday and now heads to Governor Kevin Stitt's desk for consideration. Authored by Representative Brad Boles and Senator Grant Green, the measure was pursued in response to growing concerns from citizens about rising water and electricity costs tied to expanding data center development. The legislation requires governing bodies responsible for reviewing electric supplier rates to ensure residential, commercial, and industrial customers are protected from paying unjust rates resulting directly from electric service provided to large-load customers such as data centers.

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.

Electric suppliers are required to establish and maintain separate terms and conditions for electric service to large load customers and to create and maintain separate tariffs for large load customers. Terms, conditions, and tariffs must include credit requirements or any other measures necessary to ensure that large load customers reimburse the electric supplier for all fairly allocated costs including costs incurred if the customer departs or the system or reduces load. The term of service for a 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 applies to all retail electric suppliers in the state including investor-owned utilities regulated by the Corporation Commission, electric cooperatives, municipal electric utilities and public power utilities. The Corporation Commission must promulgate rules to effectuate this act. For electric suppliers subject to the jurisdiction of the Corporation Commission for regulation of electric rates, the Corporation Commission holds exclusive jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of this act within its authority. Retail electric suppliers must comply with this act as a condition of providing service to large load customers.

The bill also requires large load customers to notify the Corporation Commission, county commissioners, and adjacent property owners whose land abuts the large load customers' land within sixty (60) days after the land is purchased. Large load customers failing to provide notice are subject to an administrative penalty not to exceed One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) per day, per violation to be collected and enforced by the county commissioners in which the land is located. If a large load customer has a project located in two or more counties, the penalty must be divided among the counties based upon the percentage of land in each county.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 84 to 0. The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 48 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, May 5th.

BILLS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR STITT

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 increase rates will be phased in each year, until the rate is sixteen and one-half percent (16.5%).

Section 1 went into effect on April 30, 2026.

Sections 2 and 3 go into effect on July 1, 2026.

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

The bill goes into effect on November 1, 2026.

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 goes into effect on July 1, 2026.

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 goes into effect on November 1, 2026.

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 goes into effect on November 1, 2026.

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 goes into effect on July 1, 2026.

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 went into effect on April 30, 2026.

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 went into effect on April 30, 2026.

BILLS VETOED BY GOVERNOR

This past week, Governor Stitt vetoed a handful of bills with various reasons for doing so. The Legislature can take up bills prior to Sine Die to try and overturn the Governor's veto. The House took up a few veto overrides on Wednesday and Thursday. We will see if they decide to take up additional overrides next week.

Law Enforcement/Public Safety Technology Revolving Fund: [HB 1250](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) created 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.

Governor Stitt's [veto message](#) states that he believes this is a solution in search of a problem and appears to create a taxpayer-funded opportunity for a single company. He also stated his concerns that the company engaged in unregistered lobbying for their bill that promotes a product pushing woke values and special interests over public safety.

Open Meetings Act/Attorney General: [HB 3278](#) by Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) authorized 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 entered 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.

Governor Stitt's [veto message](#) states that open government is a pillar of public trust, but I cannot approve a bill that abandons due process and gives one office the power to investigate, decide, and enforce its own accusations.

Law Enforcement/Official Investigation: [SB 1730](#) by Sen. Kristen Thompson (R-Edmond) and Rep. Robert Manger (R-OKC) directed 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.

Governor Stitt's [veto message](#) states this bill would require law enforcement to submit accusations and allegations of sex-related offenses to the Oklahoma State Bureau of investigation for placement in a central government database, even when no arrest is made, no charge is filed, and no conviction is obtained. That departs from the basic presumption of innocence. A person should not become the subject of a permanent government record based on an accusation alone. Labeling the database

confidential does not cure the problem. It only means the State would maintain those records outside public view, without the safeguards that accompany an arrest, criminal charge, or conviction.

BILLS MOVE TO GOVERNOR'S DESK

Open Records/Email Distribution Systems: [HB 1409](#) by Rep. Denise Crosswhite-Hader (R-Piedmont) and Sen. Kendal Sacchieri (R-Blanchard) authorizes public bodies to require people participating in the email distribution system to biennially confirm the request to be included in the system. If the person does not confirm the request, public bodies may remove that person from the email distribution system. Nothing prohibits an individual from participating in an email distribution system from which that individual was previously removed.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 82 to 1. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, May 5th.

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 House accepted the Senate amendments on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 76 to 7. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, May 5th.

Newspapers/Legal Notices: [HB 2166](#) by Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Orlando) and Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) defines a "periodical newspaper" and a "non-periodical permit newspaper". The non-periodical newspaper shall petition the district court in the jurisdiction in which the newspaper seeks to be authorized as a legal newspaper. The bill establishes the publication provisions by requiring all periodical and non-periodical permit newspapers to register and maintain registration of ownership with the Secretary of State; publish all legal notices on the newspaper website in a timely manner, if the newspaper maintains a website, in front of any paywall or paid access so the public may freely access the notices y is qualified to be a legal newspaper in only one county in which the periodical permit newspaper original entry periodicals mail permit was applied for and held or in the county in which the non-periodical permit newspaper. Each legal newspaper must annually declare in the published statement of ownership, management and circulation on October 1 and shall continue to be authorized and cannot change such declaration until October 1 each year. If there is no legal newspaper in a county, a newspaper can be established by meeting the provisions of this section after a period of fifty-two (52) consecutive and uninterrupted weeks in a twelve (12) month period. Failure to issue or publish said newspaper for a period of twenty-one (21) consecutive days, beginning the day after the last publication due to an emergency declared by the state or federal government does not deem the newspaper a failure. A newspaper is permitted to publish fifty (50) of the preceding fifty-two (52) weeks over the immediately previous twelve (12) month period, and failure to issue or publish a newspaper under this schedule does not deem this as a failure.

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 46 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Wednesday, May 6th.

School Zones/State Highways: [HB 2979](#) by Rep. Chris Banning (R-Bixby) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) creates the Tayln Bain Act directing ODOT to establish forty-five (45) mph school zones on portions of state highways upon the request of a local jurisdiction. The highway must meet certain conditions. The Department is to erect appropriate signage with maintenance and cost of operation to be the responsibility of the local jurisdiction.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 86 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Wednesday, May 6th.

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

The bill passed the Senate by a [vote](#) of 40 to 4. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, May 5th.

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 Senate on Monday by a [vote](#) of 47 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, May 5th.

Food Truck/Fire Suppression: [HB 3369](#) by Rep. Derrick Hildebrant (R-Catoosa) and Sen. Christi Gillespie (R-Broken Arrow) allows an equivalent alternative to be permitted, whereby such system shall be optional if the mobile food preparation vehicle is equipped with at least two (2) portable fire extinguishers meeting National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 10 standards and all employees receive annual fire safety training. All food trucks that use, transport, store liquefied petroleum gas must receive and maintain a permit from the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board. The Board shall promulgate rules related to such permits, including inspection requirements. The State Fire Marshal shall issue an annual operation permit decal to mobile food preparation vehicles.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 90 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Wednesday, May 6th.

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 accepted the Senate amendments on Monday by a [vote](#) of 87 to 5. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, May 5th.

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 House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 74 to 16. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Wednesday, May 6th.

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 Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 34 to 13. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Wednesday, May 6th.

Emergency Management Teams: [HB 3831](#) by Rep. Stan May (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Kelly Hines (R-OKC) 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-TFI is not deployed for wildland firefighting. The bill designates the task force as the first deployed asset for any Emergency Management Assistance Compact-related requests outside of this state during any declared disasters. Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management is authorized to promulgate rules relating to the provisions of this measure. The bill creates the Oklahoma Task Force 1 Revolving Fund.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 79 to 10. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Wednesday, May 6th.

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 House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 83 to 6. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Wednesday, May 6th.

Law Enforcement/Peeping Toms/Sex Offender Registration: [HB 4104](#) by Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Todd Gollihare (R-Kellyville) adds three (3) crimes to the classification list as B5 crimes. The crimes are: second and subsequent offense of watching, gazing, or looking upon a person in a clandestine manner for prurient interests; using photographic, electronic, or video equipment in clandestine manner for prurient interests; and

second or subsequent offense involving three (3) or more victims of using photographic, electronic, or video equipment in clandestine manner to capture image of private area without consent. The bill also requires any person convicted of violating the provisions of this section shall be required to register as a sex offender under the Sex Offenders Registration Act. Any person who has been convicted, has been assigned a level designation of one, has been registered for a period of five (5) years, and has not been arrested or convicted for any felony or misdemeanor offense and no felony or misdemeanor charges are pending, shall be authorized to petition the district court in the jurisdiction where the person resides for the purpose of removing the level designation and no longer subject to the requirements of the Sex Offenders Registration Act. Any person who has been twice convicted is not authorized to petition the court for relief.

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 41 to 4. The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 87 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Wednesday, May 6th.

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

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 45 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, May 5th.

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 Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 45 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Wednesday, May 6th.

Mental Health: [HB 4275](#) by Rep. Nicole Miller (R-Edmond) and Sen. Aaron Reinhardt (R-Jenks) requires the Board of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to make certification rules and standards for certification of behavioral health case managers who are employed by a municipality or county and employed by organizations certified by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Individuals can only use the title "certified behavioral health case manager" or "certified peer recovery support specialist" if they meet certain criteria.

The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 46 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Wednesday, May 6th.

Rural Water Districts: [HB 4316](#) by Gerrid Kendrix (R-Altus) and Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) removes the date in statute that prohibited nonprofit rural water corporations formed after 1988 from organizing into a rural water district. Provided, however, that the organization of solid waste management districts is prohibited.

The bill passed the Senate on Monday by a [vote](#) of 47 to 1. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, May 5th.

Sales Tax Exemption/Nonprofits/Contractors & Subcontractors: [SB 44](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) and Rep. Scott Fetgatter (R-Okmulgee) creates a new a sales tax exemption for the sales of tangible personal property or services to nonprofit entities as well as to any contractor with whom the exempt entity has entered into a contract necessary for carrying out such contract and sales to any subcontractor to the contract. Any contractor or subcontractor making purchases necessary for carrying out the contract may present a copy of the exemption letter or card issued to the exempt entity

by OTC and documentation indicating the contractual relationship between the contractor and the entity to the vendor and the vendor shall retain such documentation as certification that the purchase is exempt.

The bill passed the House on Monday by a [vote](#) of 62 to 26. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, May 5th.

Firearms/Hotels: [SB 372](#) by Sen. Kelly Hines (R-OKC) and Rep. Jay Steagall (R-Yukon) allows a person to carry concealed or unconcealed firearms in any state-owned hotel, cabin or lodge.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 77 to 15. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Thursday, May 7th.

Law Enforcement/Accidents: [SB 1226](#) by Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) and Rep. Mark Tedford (R-Tulsa) expands the criteria by which a person must remain at the scene or make notification of a car accident.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 80 to 6. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on May 6th.

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

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 88 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Thursday, May 7th.

Gross Production Tax/Sunset: [SB 1390](#) by Sen. Darcy Jech (R-Kingfisher) and Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) extends the sunset date of various gross production tax apportionments from June 30, 2027, until July 1, 2032. The apportionment of this revenue benefits the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department Capital Expenditure Revolving Fund, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission Infrastructure Revolving Fund, the Community

Water Infrastructure Development Revolving Fund, and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board Rural Economic Action Plan Water Projects Fund.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 75 to 16. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Thursday, May 7th.

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

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 74 to 14. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Thursday, May 7th.

OWRB/Maximum Yield: [SB 1509](#) by Sen. Darcy Jech (R-Kingfisher) requires OWRB to set well spacing by rule pursuant to the Oklahoma Administrative Procedures Act. The Board shall set specific spacing for each basin as part of establishing a maximum annual yield pursuant to Section 1020.6 of this title.

The bill passed the House on Monday by a [vote](#) of 61 to 28. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, May 5th.

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 House on Monday by a [vote](#) of 87 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, May 5th.

Law Enforcement/Cold Case Investigation: [SB 1636](#) by Sen. Carri Hicks (D-OKC) and Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) authorizes a law enforcement agency to review a case file regarding a cold case upon written application by a designated person to determine if a reinvestigation would result in probative investigative leads. The person or people employed by a law enforcement agency and performing the case file review shall not have previously investigated the cold case. The law enforcement agency shall confirm receipt of the request for a case file review in writing within thirty (30) days. Only one case can be undertaken at a time with respect to the same victim. The bill sets a six (6) month time from for the law enforcement agency to reach a conclusion if its reinvestigation is needed. If a case file review is completed and the agency concludes that a reinvestigation is not warranted, no additional review shall be taken for the same cold cases for at least five (5) years, unless new evidence is materially significant is discovered. OSBI shall promulgate rules to effectuate this act.

The bill passed the House on Tuesday by a [vote](#) of 81 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Tuesday, May 5th.

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 House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 52 to 35. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Thursday, May 7th.

GTCA/Public Trusts: [SB 1827](#) by Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) and Rep. Erick Harris (R-Edmond) modifies the definition of public trust

under GTCA to include a public trust created pursuant to Section 3224 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes and any sole member not-for-profit corporation of the public trust and any sole member not-for-profit subsidiary of such corporation.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 71 to 19. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Thursday, May 7th.

Restrictive Covenants/County Clerk: [SB 2139](#) by Sen. Carri Hicks (D-OKC) and Rep. Erick Harris (R-Edmond) upon the adoption and recording of an ordinance amending a recorded plat to redact, remove, or strike the discriminatory language from the existing plat, the municipality shall provide the county clerk an Affidavit Regarding Correction of Plats, containing the title of the plat to be recorded, a reference to the book and page number, the section, township, and range of the plat, recitation of the discriminatory language to be redacted, removed, or stricken from the plat, and a copy of the existing plat identifying the discriminatory language to be redacted, removed, or stricken. Upon receipt of an Affidavit Regarding Correction of Plats, on the electronic version of the plat on the county clerks website or the original plat if no electronic version of the plat is maintained on the county clerks website, the county clerk shall enter a note stating the discriminatory language was redacted, removed, or stricken, providing the book and page number where the Affidavit Regarding Correction of Plats is located in the county clerk's office.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 89 to 0. The bill moved to the Governor's desk on Thursday, May 7th.

BILLS ON THE MOVE

Food Truck/Fire Suppression: [HB 3369](#) by Rep. Derrick Hildebrant (R-Catoosa) and Sen. Christi Gillespie (R-Broken Arrow) allows an equivalent alternative to be permitted, whereby such system shall be optional if the mobile food preparation vehicle is equipped with at least two (2) portable fire extinguishers meeting National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 10 standards and all employees receive annual fire safety training. All food trucks

that use, transport, store liquefied petroleum gas must receive and maintain a permit from the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board. The Board shall promulgate rules related to such permits, including inspection requirements. The State Fire Marshal shall issue an annual operation permit decal to mobile food preparation vehicles.

The bill passed the Senate on Monday by a [vote](#) of 42 to 2. The bill goes back to the House to accept or reject the Senate amendments.

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 Act. The Program shall be administered by DEQ in cooperation with the Division Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources in coordination with the OSU College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology, the OSU Department of Environmental Science and the OSU Cooperative Extension Service. The Pilot Program shall operate for four (4) years and is required to perform several items it will do including to coordinate with DEQ and may utilize biosolids supplied by 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. An electronic report must be submitted annually to the Governor, Pro Tempore, Speaker and DEQ regarding the findings, data, and recommendations no later than December 1 and include agronomic outcomes; environmental monitoring results; risk assessments; and cost-benefit analysis for farmers and municipalities. OSU may partner with private agricultural landowners who volunteer to participate in research trials. No landowner will be held liable for environmental impacts resulting from adherence to OSU protocols developed under the pilot program. Municipalities may require the use of microbial biotechnology approved by the DEQ to reduce the volume of biosolids at a wastewater treatment plant. Such municipalities may adopt technology approved by the DEQ to reduce biosolid odor and dry solid matter at a wastewater treatment plant. Biosolids may not be applied to land where crops are grown

for human consumption. Funding for the Program can come from legislative appropriations, municipal contributions, federal research grants, private or industry research partnerships or in-kind contributions. DEQ must promulgate an approval process for alternative treatment methods such as microbial and supercritical water oxidation methods.

The bill was presented in the House GCCA meeting on May 5th and is open for signatures.

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 licensed by the State provided by an ambulance service managed by a municipality, county, ambulance service district, tribal entity or other public entity to be considered essential services.

Any ambulance service licensed in this state for nine-one-one emergency response that has a contract with an entity listed in paragraph 3 of this section, that is in good standing with the listed entities and has a contract to provide nine-one-one emergency services in its jurisdictional boundaries, as defined by the contract.

Any ambulance service under subparagraph a of this paragraph shall use any grant funding obtained by this act, shall only be used for grant awards in the district and for the grant application defined by the contract with the entities listed in paragraph 3 of this section.

The bill passed the House on Monday by a [vote](#) of 91 to 0. The bill moves back to the Senate to accept or reject the House amendments.

Water/Groundwater Usage/Metering/Data Centers: [SB 259](#) by Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) and Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) requires water permit holders to remit their annual report of water use to OWRB. The bill specifies that conservation, nonuse, and usage practices resulting in less consumption of the permitted water shall not be used to diminish the permit holder's future permitted equal proportional share. Penalties and

finer are created for any person willfully withholding the annual report. The bill also provides that complaints relating to unauthorized use of water shall be submitted to the Board and the local groundwater irrigation district. OWRB is directed to require all water wells requiring a permit to take and use groundwater to utilize water well flow meters or alternative measuring systems at a central point of distribution. OWRB shall promulgate rules providing for an 8-year phase-in schedule of adopting these systems. The Board shall also modernize its data collection, investigate claims of waste, and impose fines and penalties for overuse or waste. A 5-year allocation of the maximum annual yield of the basin or subbasin may be approved for a regular permit beginning August 1, 2026. Applicants for such allocations must adhere to the cumulative maximum annual yield for the basin or subbasin over the period. The bill requires all reporting to be anonymized.

Using groundwater for cooling purposes at a data processing facility or data center through open-air evaporative cooling systems or any other cooling technology that consumes groundwater through evaporation or discharge without recirculation. Groundwater permits for such facilities shall only be issued if the applicant demonstrates that the cooling system utilizes closed-loop, dielectric immersion, or other comparably low-consumptive cooling technologies that substantially recirculate groundwater and minimize consumptive loss as determined by the Board.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday by a [vote](#) of 88 to 1. The bill moves back to the Senate to accept or reject the House amendments.

Personal Injury Suits/Medical Bills: [SB 833](#) by Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) and Rep. Mark Tedford (R-Tulsa) modifies the standards used to calculate injury in a civil case. The bill provides that evidence shall be presented to the court to show the reasonable value of the treatment provided to the injured party instead of the amount billed to the injured party. The amount shall be limited to the amounts actually necessary to satisfy the financial obligation for medical services or treatment rendered to the plaintiff that have been incurred but not yet satisfied. Such standards should also apply

to the necessary future treatment of the injured party. Additionally, if the reimbursement rate is allowed by any health insurance covering the injured party or any public or government-sponsored health care benefit program for which the injured party is eligible. If the injured party is not covered by any health insurance and is not eligible for coverage under any private, public or government-sponsored health care benefit, the court shall use the Medicare reimbursement rate.

The bill passed the House on Thursday by a [vote](#) of 91 to 0. The bill goes back to the Senate to accept or reject the House amendments.