

10-19

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

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



GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL SUPPORTED BY CONGRESS OF MAYORS

HB 1516 by Rep. Lundy Kiger, R-Poteau, and Sen. Chuck Hall, R-Perry, was signed by Governor Stitt on Tuesday, April 16. This bill will allow councilmembers serving in an Aldermanic form of government to retain their seat if they move from one ward to another ward after his or her election, or if there is a change in ward boundaries. This shall not disqualify the councilmember from completing the term for which he or she was elected. Strong-Mayor, Council-Manager, and Town Board forms of government currently allow for this provision. HB 1516 was created as a result of Congressional Resolution 1903 at the 2019 Oklahoma Congress of Mayors. The bill takes effect November 1.

“PLASTIC BAG BILL” ON GOVERNOR’S DESK

SB 1001 by Sen. James Leewright, R-Bristow, and Rep. Dustin Roberts, R-Durant, prohibits political subdivisions from restricting, taxing, prohibiting or regulating the use, disposition or sale of auxiliary containers including plastic bags. On Tuesday, April 16, the bill passed off the House floor with a vote of 51-41. However, the emergency clause failed 62-30. The bill was sent to the Governor’s desk on Wednesday, April 17. He has until Monday, April 22 to sign or veto the bill. Click to see how your **Senator** and **Representative** voted on this bill.

DEADLINE ONE WEEK AWAY

The deadline for bills to be heard in the opposite chamber of origin is Thursday, April 25, one week from today.

OML priority bills still waiting to be heard on the House Floor next week include **SB 400**, **SB 824**, and **SB 1030**.

One of OML’s priority bills, **SB 881** by Sen. Paxton (R – Tuttle) and Rep. Boles (R – Marlow) – Certificates of Convenience and Necessity notification process – passed the House Floor on Tuesday with a vote of 86 – 0. This bill has received unanimous bipartisan support throughout every step of the legislative process. SB 881 is currently on the Governor’s desk.

Send copies of any correspondence you have with your legislators to jlewis@oml.org or fax to 405-528-7560, attn: Jodi for our records.

Bills on The Move

A Snapshot of Bills Impacting Cities and Towns

Law Enforcement/Sexual Assault Kits: [SB 975](#) by Sen. Kay Floyd (D-OKC) and Rep. Jon Echols (R-OKC) is new law requiring a variety of activities regarding sexual assault evidence kits including law enforcement requirements. This includes submitting evidence to a lab, information given to a victim and maintaining and storing untested kits. The bill contains details.

With the House amendment adopted, the bill advanced from the House floor by a unanimous vote.

Public Accommodation/Service Animals: [HB 1309](#) by Rep. Marilyn Stark (R-Bethany) and Sen. Brenda Stanley (R-OKC) is new law creating 4 O.S. Section 801 regarding public accommodation of service animals by a place of public accommodation. These terms have the same meaning as defined in 28 C.F.R. Section 36.104. There are exceptions, policy and posting requirements. The bill contains details.

With the Senate amendment adopted, the bill advanced from the Senate floor by a vote of 39-6.

Law Enforcement/Telecommunication System: [HB 2037](#) by Rep. Dean Davis (R-Broken Arrow) and Sen. Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) amends the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (OLETS) by authorizing a county sheriff who offers hosting services of end users that allows connection to OLETS to charge a fee. The fee is for the itemized actual costs of specific items including providing personnel, reoccurring user fees, hardware and accessories, installation, maintenance and the like. The terms and itemized costs shall be provided in an inter-local agreement. There are filing requirements and fees. The bill contains details.

With the Senate amendment adopted, the bill advanced from the Senate floor by a unanimous vote.

Water/Groundwater Irrigation District: [HB 2263](#) by Rep. Kenton Patzkowsky (R-Balko) and Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) is new law creating the Groundwater Irrigation District Act for permit holders in a proposed District for procurement conservation grant funding. The bill contains details of the required petition to create the District plus duties for county commissioners and OWRB including rulemaking.

With the Senate amendment adopted, the bill advanced from the Senate floor by a vote of 32-9.

Law Enforcement/School Bus Fines: [HB 1926](#) by Rep. Dell Kerbs (R-Shawnee) and Sen. Ron Sharp (R-Shawnee) amends current law regarding the diversion of fines for a driver overtaking a school bus that is stopped to take on or discharge school children. It also authorizes school districts to install and operate a video-monitoring system for recording violations for drivers overtaking a school bus. In addition to a fine, a special assessment of \$100 is created with 25% going to the law enforcement agency which reviews and determines the evidence is such that the vehicle and driver can be identified. Prosecution is with the district attorney. There are definitions and a special fund is created for the State Board of Education. The bill contains details.

After being held on a motion to reconsider, the bill passed the Senate by a vote of 30-14.

Sales Tax Exemption/Forestry Equipment: [HB 2303](#) by Rep. Johnny Tadlock (R-Idabel) and Sen. David Bullard (R-Durant) creates a new sales tax exemption for commercial forestry service equipment. The bill contains details.

With the Senate amendment adopted, the bill advanced from the Senate floor by a vote of 36-3.

Law Enforcement/Stationary Vehicle: [SB 89](#) by Sen. Brent Howard (R-Altus) and Rep. Charles Ortega (R-Altus) requires a driver of a motor vehicle to change lanes into a lane not adjacent to a stationary vehicle that is displaying flashing lights. The bill provides details.

With the House amendment adopted, the bill advanced from the House floor by a vote of 90-2.

Law Enforcement/DNA Collection: [SB 184](#) by Sen. Wayne Shaw (R-Grove) and Rep. Carol Bush (R-Tulsa) amends 22 O.S. Section 210 requiring DNA collection and testing for persons over 18 arrested for a felony. Samples must be collected by trained medical personnel, law enforcement, tribal police officers, or employees or medical contractors of these organizations as qualified via this statute. Provision is made for DNA identification - matching purposes, use of Rapid DNA technology by a jail, detention facility, booking facility of a federally recognized American Indian tribe in Oklahoma or other designated facility and confidentiality requirements. An additional exception is added to current law for non-analysis and destruction requirements if the DNA sample was provided as a condition of a plea agreement. The bill contains details.

With the House amendment adopted, the bill advanced from the House floor by a vote of 63-27.

Sales Tax Exemption/American Legion: [HB 1003](#) by Rep. Mike Sanders (R-Kingfisher) and Sen. Roger Thompson (R-Okemah) adds a sales tax exemption for the American Legion.

With the title and emergency clause restored, the bill advanced from the Senate by a unanimous vote.

Law Enforcement/Identification: [HB 1014](#) by Rep. Carol Bush (R-Tulsa) and Sen. Wayne Shaw (R-Grove) amends 47 O.S. Section 6-110.2 by authorizing the OSBI to have access, without a court order, to information collected via the use of computerized finger imaging. The information is used for the purpose of identifying a person who is deceased, missing or endangered.

With the title restored, the bill advanced from the Senate by a vote of 28-16.

Health Insurance/Credit Card Payment: [HB 1157](#) by Rep. Rande Worthen (R-Lawton) and Sen. John Montgomery (R-Lawton) is new law prohibiting any health insurance plan from containing restrictions on methods of payment from the health insurer to its vendor or health maintenance organization to the health care provider in which the only acceptable payment method is a credit card payment. The bill contains details.

The bill advanced from the Senate by a unanimous vote.

Nursing Home/Long-Term Care: [SB 142](#) by Sen. Stephanie Bice (R-OKC) and Rep. Tammy West (R-Bethany) provides that no long-term care facility resident shall be prescribed or administered any antipsychotic drug not already prescribed prior to admission unless a number of conditions are met. The bill contains details.

The bill advanced from the House by a unanimous vote.

Cemeteries/Annual Meeting: [SB 450](#) by Sen. Tom Dugger (R-Stillwater) and Rep. Trish Ranson (D-Stillwater) amends 8 O.S. Section 15 regarding annual meetings of a cemetery association.

The bill advanced from the House by a unanimous vote.

Hospitals/Appeals: [SB 508](#) by Sen. Joe Newhouse (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Marcus McEntire (R-Duncan) is new law impacting any accident and health insurer that receives, from a physician or hospital, an appeal of the denial of a claim by the insurer. The bill requires the specific details of the appeal and further detailed information in writing. The bill contains details.

The bill advanced from the House by a unanimous vote.

CLEET/Municipal Academies: [SB 658](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Rep. Ross Ford (R-Broken Arrow) removes the population component from current law's approval of separate basic training academies. No longer would a municipality need 65,000 persons or any county a population of 500,000. CLEET is limited to approving a maximum of 2 academies per calendar year.

The bill is waiting to be heard on the House floor.

Electronic Documents/Notarization: [SB 915](#) by Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) and Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) is new law creating the Remote Online Notary Act with rulemaking given to the Secretary of State. There are numerous definitions, authorization for a notary appointed under the Act to perform remote online notarizations including application/registration and fees. The bill requires the notary to maintain a journal in a permanent, tamper-evident electronic format, electronic signature and seal, specific notarization procedures with authorization to charge a fee. The bill contains details.

The bill advanced from the House by a vote of 87-1.

Food/Regulation: [HB 1055](#) by Rep. Carol Bush (R-Tulsa) and Sen. Greg McCortney (R-Ada) is new law regulating unattended food establishments which is an operation that provides packaged foods or whole fruit using an automated payment system and has controlled entry not accessible by the general public. The Department of Health shall regulate including permitting and fees, requirements for location, packaging and sanitation as well as rule-making authority.

With the title and emergency clause restored, the bill advanced from the Senate by a vote of 42-2.

Pension/Firefighters: [HB 2269](#) by Rep. Josh West (R-Grove) and Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) amends the Firefighter Pension System regarding the calculation of straight life annuity in 11 O.S. Section 49-106.2 by adding language on interest rates. In addition, all pension benefits including payments from the deferred option plan shall be paid from the general assets of the Fund. Also, changes are made to probate procedure following a member's death. The Police Pension System is amended regarding the Deferred Option Plans payment of a lump sum to beneficiaries specified in the bill. In addition, the State Police Pension Board shall be granted access in 11 O.S. Section 50-112 to a list of actively working police officers within municipalities and agencies under the purview provided by CLEET. Upon the death of a retired member or a beneficiary of the Police Pension System, the

benefit payment for the month the retired or beneficiary died, if not previously paid, shall be made to the beneficiary of the member, with shall include a successor in interest in accordance with requirements in the bill.

The bill and emergency clause advanced from the Senate by a unanimous vote.

Finance/Bonds: [HB 2305](#) by Rep. Avery Frix (R-Muskogee) and Sen. Dewayne Pemberton (R-Muskogee) amends 61 O.S. Section 2 impacting the agency, institution, department, commission, municipality or government instrumentality that is authorized by law and enters into contracts for construction of public improvements or buildings, or public or private improvements or buildings on a public-private partnership project, or for repairs. Any person who is due payment for labor, material or repair to machinery or equipment, shall file a claim or bring action on the bond for recovery. No action shall be brought on the bond after 1 year unless a prior claim has been filed within 1 year from the day on which the labor was performed or material or parts furnished. The bill contains details.

With the floor substitute adopted, the bill advanced from the Senate by a unanimous vote.

Law Enforcement/Cyclists: [HB 2453](#) by Rep. Jason Dunnington (D-OKC) and Sen. John Montgomery (R-Lawton) amends 47 O.S. Section 11-1208 regarding motorists interacting with cyclists on the roadway. Regulation is put in place for changing lanes and overtaking the bicycle. There is a penalty provision including fines and criminal penalties. The bill provides details.

The bill advanced from the Senate by a vote of 42-2.

Airport/Contracts: [HB 2518](#) by Rep. Tammy West (R-Bethany) and Sen. Paul Rosino (R-OKC) amends 3 O.S. Section 65.5 impacting airports, air navigation facilities or aircraft maintenance or manufacturing facilities owned, leased or controlled by a municipality. Current laws term of 40 years for contracts, leases and other arrangements for a primary term is increased to 50 years.

The bill advanced from the Senate by a vote of 41-1.

Public Safety/Opiate Antagonists: [HB 2519](#) by Rep. Tammy West (R-Bethany) and Sen. Darcy Jech (R-Kingfisher) authorizes first responders to provide, without prescription, opiate antagonists to individuals who experienced or witnessed an opiate overdose for those individuals at a later date.

The bill advanced from the Senate by a unanimous vote.

Bills Move to the Governor's Desk

Law Enforcement/Sexual Assault Kits: [SB 967](#) by Sen. Kay Floyd (D-OKC) and Rep. Jon Echols (R-OKC) is new law authorizing the OSBI to implement a statewide electronic tracking system for evidence collection kits used to collect and preserve evidence of a sexual assault or other sex offense. Any law enforcement agency, medical provider or forensic laboratory that has a previously untested collection kit used for a forensic medical examination shall comply with established protocols relating to all untested kits. Consistent with protecting victim confidentiality for unreported sexual assaults, a law enforcement agency having custody of a kit shall take reasonable measures to provide appropriate tracking information to the affected victim. The OSBI, no later than January 1, 2020, shall require participation in the tracking system by all medical providers, law enforcement agencies, forensic laboratories or others that have custody of a kit.

Law Enforcement/All-Terrain Vehicles: [HB 1332](#) by Rep. Danny Sterling (R-Tecumseh) and Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) amends 47 O.S. Section 11-1116 in (D)(2) by allowing all-terrain vehicles on current law's public streets and highways. The bill removes public streets. No change is made to (D)(3) impacting streets and highways within a municipality. All-terrain vehicles are authorized on roadways within unincorporated areas of a county under conditions in the bill. The bill provides details.

Fire Protection Districts/Directors: [HB 2161](#) by Rep. Garry Mize (R-Edmond) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) provides the directors of a fire protection district shall not be paid firefighters for the fire protection district. In addition, the board of directors shall have the power by general regulation to regulate outdoor burning with rules submitted for approval of the eligible voters. The bill contains details.

Municipal Court/Fines: [HB 1428](#) by Rep. Ben Loring (D-Miami) and Sen. Julie Daniels (R-Bartlesville) amends 11 O.S. Section 27-112 regarding the court clerk's duties for depositing municipal court fees, fines and forfeitures. The court clerk shall make a receipt for these funds collected which shall be retained by the municipality. The receipt and detailed statement retained by the municipality shall be saved and produced in an electronic format.

Hospitals/Children: [SB 284](#) by Sen. Stephanie Bice (R-OKC) and Rep. Sean Roberts (R-Hominy) requires every hospital, birthing center and medical facility shall maintain a written policy for disposition of the remains of a child from a stillbirth or fetal death event.

State/Transparency Act: [SB 316](#) by Sen. Nathan Dahm (R-Broken Arrow) and Rep. Tom Gann (R-Inola) creates the Government Transparency Act of 2019. It requires a state agency entering into an agreement with any agency, department or any organization receiving appropriated money, grants, contracts from the State or any other state or funds from the U.S. to publish a report. The report is a detailed accounting of each agreement which must meet a number of requirements. The bill contains details, definitions, exceptions.

Law Enforcement/Class A License: [SB 347](#) by Sen. Casey Murdock (R-Felt) and Rep. Carl Newton (R-Cherokee) is new law providing that a person driving under a commercial Class A license shall not be required to obtain a hazardous materials endorsement via 49 C.F.R. Section 383 if the person meets the conditions in the bill. The bill contains details.

Law Enforcement/Transportation Networks: [SB 433](#) by Sen. Marty Quinn (R-Claremore) and Rep. Harold Wright (R-Weatherford) amends 47 O.S. Section 1021 regarding transportation network companies (TNC). A TNC may accept payment for prearranged rides electronically using the TNC's digital network or software application or by check mailed to the TNC at an address provided by the TNC.

Alcohol/ABLE Commission: [SB 469](#) by Sen. Michael Brooks (D-OKC) and Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) provides that no license shall be granted to or retained by any person or partnership containing any partner who is related to any member of the ABLE Commission or to the Director or Assistant Director by blood or marriage within the third degree or who is related to any other employee of the ABLE Commission by blood or marriage in the first degree.

Excavation/Certificate of Convenience: [SB 881](#) by Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) and Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) amends 17 O.S. Sections 131 and 132 impacting Corporation Commission issuance of a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for each provider of telecommunications service. Actual notice by mail or personal service must be made to all political subdivisions with jurisdictional boundaries that include all or portions of the service area outlined in the application for Certificate of Convenience and Necessity.

Community Sentencing/Procedures: [SB 933](#) by Sen. George Young (D-OKC) and Rep. Chris Kannady (R-OKC) amends 22 O.S. Sections 988.9, 988.10 and 988.14. In addition to any supervisory fee, eligible offenders

participating in the local community sentencing system shall be an administrative fee not to exceed \$20 per month. Sentencing judges shall consider the most cost-effective treatment targeted for the offender's needs as determined by the Level of Services Inventory (LSI) or assessment instrument

Auxiliary Containers/Political Subdivision Preemption: [SB 1001](#) by Sen. James Leewright (R-Bristow) and Rep. Dustin Roberts (R-Durant) is new law defining an auxiliary container which is any bag, cup, package, container, bottle, device or other packaging that is made of cloth, paper, plastic, and the like, that is designed for, but not limited to consuming, transporting or protecting merchandise, food or beverages from, or at, a food service facility, manufacturing, distribution, further processing or retail facility. No political subdivision shall restrict, tax, prohibit or regulate the use, disposition or sale of auxiliary containers. This prohibition does not apply to use of auxiliary containers on property owned by a county or municipality. Nothing in the bill prohibits or limits any county or municipal ordinance or agreement regarding a recycling program or disposal of solid waste.

Veterans Registry: [SB 358](#) by Sen. Frank Simpson (R-Ardmore) and Rep. Tommy Hardin (R-Madill) amends current law regarding the veteran registry created by the Department of Veterans Affairs by adding required data and redefining a veteran. The bill contains details.

Public Safety/Police Department: [SB 589](#) by Sen. Darrell Weaver (R-Moore) and Rep. Brad Boles (R-Marlow) amends 11 O.S. Section 34-107 giving the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police the responsibility of conducting compliance reviews of municipal law enforcement agencies. The review shall be conducted upon receipt of a complaint or reasonable cause to believe the agency has failed to comply with safety and liability policy requirements. If the police department has not come into compliance after 6 months, the chiefs association shall notify in writing the chief elected official of the governing body, the chief law enforcement officer and the liability insurance company of the agency.

Bills Signed by the Governor

Law Enforcement/Dumping Trash: [HB 1110](#) by Rep. Kevin West (R-Moore) and Sen. Chris Kidd (R-Addington) amends 21 O.S. Section 1205 regarding throwing garbage, tin cans, junk rubbish or refuse and the like within 100 feet of “occupied dwelling of another” with an exception. The penalty in 21 O.S. Section 1206 for any person or any officer of any municipality violating any provisions of this act is increased from \$100 to not less than \$200 nor more than \$500. In addition, 21 O.S. Section 1761.1 regarding dumping garbage, trash, waste, rubbish, refuse, debris or other deleterious substances on any public property, “his or her own private property” in “violation of any county or state zoning or public health regulations” shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined. Current law does not contain the limiting language of violation of any county or state zoning or public health regulations. The penalty is increased from \$200 to not less than \$500 nor more than \$5,000.

The bill will take effect on November 1, 2019.

CLEET/Certificate Reimbursement: [HB 1207](#) by Rep. Sherrie Conley (R-Newcastle) and Sen. Greg McCortney (R-Ada) impacts reimbursement to the original employing agency who paid “for CLEET training” and the salary of the person while completing the basic police course. If the person leaves within one year after “initial employment”, in addition to the salary, reimbursement will also include the cost of CLEET training. In addition, if the person leaves the original employing agency later than 1 year, but less than 2 years, after initial employment, the second agency or the person receiving the training shall reimburse the original agency 50% of the cost of CLEET training and salary paid to the person while completing the basic police course by the original employing agency.

The bill will take effect on November 1, 2019.

Law Enforcement/Electric-Assisted Bicycle: [HB 1265](#) by Rep. Carol Bush (R-Tulsa) and Sen. Adam Pugh (R-Edmond) amends several sections of Title 47 and creates new law regarding electric-assisted bicycles. The bill contains details including definitions, different classes of bicycles, underage driving of these bicycles, provisions for operators “rights and privileges” including exemption from financial responsibility, insurance and the like. 47 O.S. Section 11-805.2 is repealed.

The bill will take effect on November 1, 2019.

Law Enforcement/Missing Persons Duty: [HB 2640](#) by Rep. Rhonda Baker (R-Yukon) and Sen. Julie Daniels (R-

Bartlesville) is new law creating Francine’s Law requiring special duties from law enforcement. Law enforcement must enter the report of the missing person in any database of missing persons required by the agency and into NamUs, obtain biometric records and other specified means of identification. It is prohibited for a law enforcement agency to delay in taking a missing person report or establish any policy requiring a waiting period before investigating a missing child report. There are exceptions. CLEET shall establish law enforcement training for missing persons.

The bill will take effect on November 1, 2019.

Finance/Bond Oversight: [SB 94](#) by Sen. Adam Pugh (R-Edmond) and Rep. Ryan Martinez (R-Edmond) amends various provisions regarding Bond Oversight in Title 62 and 73 O.S. Section 156.1 by substituting the State Treasurer or the Deputy Treasurer for Debt Management for current law’s Oklahoma State Bond Advisor.

The bill will take effect on November 1, 2019.

Alcoholic Beverages/Police Officers: [HB 1024](#) by Rep. Johnny Tadlock (R-Idabel) and Sen. Bill Coleman (R-Ponca City) amends current law regarding the prohibition on political subdivision employees engaging in the alcohol beverage business. The bill provides an exception for peace officers who are working as off-duty security.

The bill took effect upon the Governor’s signature.

Elected Officials/Moving Wards: [HB 1516](#) by Rep. Lundy Kiger (R-Poteau) and Sen. Chuck Hall (R-Perry) amends 11 O.S. Section 9-103 requires governing body members from wards to be actual residents of their respective wards “at the time of their respective candidacies and elections.” Removal of a councilmember from a ward to another ward after his or her election, or a change in ward boundaries, shall not disqualify the councilmember from completing the term for which he or she was elected.

The bill will take effect on November 1, 2019.

Inspectors Act/Report Writer: [HB 2088](#) by Rep. Brian Hill (R-Mustang) and Sen. John Montgomery (R-Lawton) amends the Oklahoma Inspectors Act by changing the definition of “report writer”. It currently means any person or agency designated by a political subdivision. The bill strikes the word “agency”. It also removes the duty of the Construction Industry Board to establish by rule a method for prorating license fees. The

expiration of licenses shall expire on the “last day in the” birth “month” of the licensee. Current law states on the licensee’s birthdate. Population determination from the Oklahoma Employment Security Board for exemption from the Act is removed. The U.S. Census Bureau is substituted.

The bill will take effect on November 1, 2019.

Law Enforcement/Cyclist: [HB 2454](#) by Rep. Jason Dunnington (D-OKC), Rep. Lewis Moore (R-Arcadia), and Sen. John Montgomery (R-Lawton) amends 47 O.S. Section 11-202 by adding bicycle to the regulation in current law for a motorcycle.

The bill will take effect on November 1, 2019.

Firearms/Oklahoma Firearms Act: [SB 24](#) by Micheal Bergstrom (R-Adair) and Rep. Jay Steagall (R-Yukon) amends various sections of Title 21 changing the definitions of several firearms. Included are pistols or handguns, shotguns, sawed-off shotgun and firearms.

The bill will take effect on November 1, 2019.

Elections/Recounts: [SB 59](#) by Sen. Dewayne Pemberton (R-Muskogee) and Rep. Chris Sneed (R-Fort Gibson) amends the procedure for a recount in 26 O.S. Section 8-112 by requiring the petitioner or petitioner’s agent be present when the district court judge calls the recount proceedings to order. If not present, the recount shall not be conducted, and the deposit shall be forfeited by the petitioner.

The bill will take effect on November 1, 2019.

Advocating for Your Community

This year, several bills have been filed that will have a negative impact on our members, which means we need YOU more than ever. Here are a few tips to help you help us.

Stay vigilant, stay informed. Let OML be your clearing house for legislative information and news. OML sends out many GRIP Alerts to our members to let you know when a pressing issue needs your attention. Pay attention to these emails, as we send them for your benefit. You can also read any version of any bill on the Legislature's website at oklegislature.gov.

Be active. If you can't be at the Capitol, call, text, and email your legislators. They want to hear from you!

Act swiftly. Often times, bills heard in committee or on the floor can come and go very quickly. This means that you have a small window to communicate with your legislators. Same day action is paramount.

Send us your comments. Is a particular issue or bill important to your community? Tell us about it. We also frequently send out bills and ask for comments from you for guidance. These comments remain completely in-house, so don't be afraid to speak up. Your words are safe with us!

Build a coalition. Never has the phrase "strength in numbers" been more relevant. Discuss these issues with community leaders and surrounding municipalities. Collaboration is invaluable in the legislative process.

Build a relationship with your legislators. Legislators appreciate hearing from their constituents back home. They're also usually happy to give their phone numbers and email addresses out to remain in contact with you.

Future Issues

Look for the Legislative Advocate to highlight bills that exemplify the ways in which municipalities are squeezed dry. We will also highlight some positive developments from the Capitol including bills that we are lobbying on behalf of individual members.

Cities and towns either win or lose together at the State Capitol since it takes a majority of legislators from all over the state – whether urban or rural, democrat or republican – to carry the day. The number-one ingredient for success at the legislature and state agencies is a united collective municipal voice.