



2024 Session in Review

Measures passed during the Second Regular Session of the 59th Oklahoma Legislature

Charles McCall, Speaker | Oklahoma House of Representatives



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Introduction

The close of the 59th legislative session brought about some major accomplishments for the state of Oklahoma. One of the early achievements was the elimination of the 4.5 percent state portion of the grocery sales tax, which is expected to save Oklahoma taxpayers more than \$370 million each year. The Legislature made historic investments in funding public education and established a program to provide more than \$350 million to address deferred maintenance at state properties, state parks, and public colleges and universities. Public safety needs were also addressed by funding the completion of a new Department of Public Safety training facility, creating a classification system for felony offenses, and establishing criminal penalties for impermissible occupation when someone willfully enters and remains in the state without having obtained legal authorization to enter the United States. ■



Agriculture, Rural Development, & Wildlife

Agriculture

HB 2927 outlines the spending limits for the FY 2025 appropriations to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF):

- \$6 million for capital and equipment needs for the Oklahoma State University (OSU) Robert M. Kerr Food and Agriculture Products Center;
- \$1 million operational expenses for the OSU Robert M. Kerr Food and Agriculture Products Center;
- \$4.2 million for the OSU Agriculture Extension Service offices;
- \$1.3 million for the OSU Agriculture Experiment Stations;
- \$2.5 million for the cooperation extension and agriculture research programs at Langston University;
- \$9.5 million for the Oklahoma FFA Association, of which \$5 million will be used for renovations to make the camp operational. The camp operator will be required to submit an expenditure report the Legislature and Governor; and
- \$6,891,070 for rural fire departments to replace equipment and gear.

SB 1424 amends the Oklahoma Registered Poultry Feeding Operations Act by:

- Declaring that administrative violations are not the basis for criminal or civil action and provides protections to integrators, growers, operators, contractors, and applicators;
- Declaring that any alleged violation is not the basis for any private right of action;
- Declaring that a compliant nutrient management plan means that

the operation is following best management practices, which insulates the grower, integrator, and applicator from any private right of action;

- Ensuring that civil action for damages is allowed after the State Board of Agriculture completes its enforcement action;
- Placing the responsibility for maintaining educational requirements on the operators and applicators;
- Requiring revisions to the nutrient management plan when runoff of poultry waste occurs at an application site;
- Increasing the fee charged to the owner or operator from \$200 per day to \$1,000 per day for violations of the act;
- Punishing the owner or operator for inaction that could lead to pollution of any stream, lake, river, or creek with a fee of \$500 to \$10,000 per violation;
- Increasing the upper limit of administrative penalties for owners or operators with late or incomplete paperwork from \$200 per day to \$10,000 per day;
- Allowing ODAFF to assess a separate fee of \$10,000 for owner or operator noncompliance that has led to water pollution;
- Ensuring that fees shall be used to enforce the act;
- Providing details about the notice ODAFF sends to the integrator when an operator is disregarding best management practices;
- Outlining the integrator's responsibility to ensure the grower becomes compliant and requires the integrator to suspend bird delivery

or terminate the integrator-producer relationship, depending on the circumstances;

- Allowing ODAFF to issue a penalty fee to integrators for \$100 to \$10,000 for violating any aspect of integrator-operator notification process; and
- Clarifying that an employer-employee relationship does not exist between an integrator and contractor.

SB 1442 transfers the authority to issue poultry waste application certificates from the State Board of Agriculture to ODAFF. Commercial applicator permits are extended to five years, and the fee is increased from \$15 to \$75.

HB 3756 removes provisions in the Swine Feeding Operations Act that required the State Board of Agriculture to assign points to violators of the act, which could lead to suspension, revocation, or nonrenewal of a swine feeding operation license.

HB 3011 modifies the Oklahoma Industrial Hemp Program in several ways. The measure:

- Defines the term *key participant*, as someone with a direct or indirect financial interest in the hemp farm and requires that a criminal history of key participants be included in new or renewal license applications;
- Requires on-site remediation of noncompliant hemp;
- Prohibits any part of a plant from exceeding .3 percent concentration of THC if its derivatives are used for livestock or pet feed; and
- Requires hemp harvest to occur within 30 days of sampling.

HB 2975 allows producers of homemade food to place an ODAFF-issued identification number on their products in lieu of a label including their name, phone

number, and home address. The fee for the alternative one-year ID is \$15.

HB 3182 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture, rather than the Governor, to convene the Emergency Drought Committee when the secretary declares that emergency drought conditions exist. The measure also allows the committee to approve expenditures from the Emergency Drought Relief Fund, rather than the Governor.

HB 3192 adds and defines the following terms within state forestry code: *control line*, *fire line*, *hazardous duty*, and *wildland firefighter*. The measure also requires ODAFF to create a prescribed burn notification plan for anyone wanting to conduct a burn. Further, it adds liability protections for forest rangers who conduct prescribed burns and implements steps to mitigate the effects of wildfires on public land or private property if the land owner consents.

HB 2185 requires applicants for an aerial pesticide applicator license to submit a copy of their Federal Aviation Administration certification for pesticide application. Further, the measure allows for borate-based termite pesticide to be used as a stand-alone termite treatment, as long as the product is registered with the Environmental Protection Agency and the State Board of Agriculture.

HB 2986 creates definitions for *cattle crossing signage* and *open pasture road*. Landowners are required to notify their county commissioner when a road bisecting their property meets the definition of an open pasture road. This requirement sunsets on November 1, 2025. However, once designated, a landowner must let county commissioners know every year whether the designation still applies. Commissioners must erect cattle crossing signs on any designated open pasture roads and the landowner will pay for the signage. If motor vehicle damage or occupant injury is caused by livestock on an open pasture road, the property owner and livestock owner are not liable.

HB 2248 designates the soybean as the state legume.

Rural Development

HB 3196 removes the maximum number of OSU veterinary students who can be accepted into the rural Oklahoma veterinary training program. Funding preference will be given to students currently enrolled in the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine and focused on large animals. The measure also increases the maximum amount of funds

each student can receive per year from \$20,000 to \$25,000.

HB 2889 appropriates \$20 million from the Progressing Rural Economic Prosperity (PREP) Fund to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for water system improvements in between State Highway 94 and 95 in Texas County.

HB 2890 appropriates \$50 million from the Progressing Rural Economic Prosperity (PREP) fund to DEQ for upgrades to the levees along the Arkansas River and tributaries in northeast Oklahoma. The appropriation allows the state to be eligible for federal matching funds.

Wildlife

SB 941 modifies several hunting and fishing licensing fees for residents and nonresidents. The major fee modifications include:

- Raising the price for an annual resident fishing license from \$24 to \$30 and for an annual nonresident fishing license from \$54 to \$80. Both licenses are valid for one year from the date of issuance;
- Raising the price for an annual resident hunting license from \$24 to \$35 and for an annual nonresident hunting license from \$175 to \$208. Both licenses are valid for one year from the date of issuance; and
- Raising the price for a lifetime fishing license from \$200 to \$375 and for a lifetime combination hunting and fishing license from \$750 to \$1,024.

The measure also modifies certain provisions relating to the Wildlife Commission and hunting and fishing licenses. Those modifications include:

- Raising the age at which residents and nonresidents are exempt from having a fishing or hunting license from 16 to 18;
- Creating a five-year disability combination hunting/finishing license for \$20;
- Removing the five-year fishing, hunting, and combination licenses for residents and replacing it with a three-year combination hunting/fishing license for \$120;
- Removing the lifetime hunting licenses;
- Providing that certain licenses are required to hunt in a commercial hunt area;

- Requiring the Wildlife Commission to submit a report to the Legislature every five years with proposed licensing fees based on the latest Consumer Price Index; and
- Repealing a section of law relating to hunting licenses to address a duplicate sections issue.

HB 4060 provides liability protection for people who glean agricultural crops or process wild game and donate the food to a charitable organization, state agency, or nonprofit. The measure defines terms and directs ODAFF to:

- Review its regulations that may limit the use of donated or gleaned food and report its findings to the Legislature and Governor by January 1, 2025;
- Create a licensing program for current state-inspected non-game meat processors that want to participate in the Hunters Against Hunger program administered by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC); and
- Post information related to food donation laws on its website.

The measure also directs the ODWC to post information about the new ODAFF meat-processing license on its Hunters Against Hunting website.

HB 3462 directs ODAFF to work with ODWC to develop a pilot program to enhance the genetic durability of Oklahoma deer against chronic wasting disease.

HB 3856 allows the Director of Wildlife Conservation to provide residents and nonresidents with a five-day, \$5 paper hunting license for upland winged game, excluding wild turkeys, to hunt in a licensed commercial hunt area.

HB 3997 allows cyanide to be used as a predator control device from April 1 to September 30 each year. The measure also removes the provision that cyanide predator control device permits are restricted to a six-month period.

SB 1169 directs the Commissioners of the Land Office, the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority (OCIA), and the Office of Management and Enterprise Services to contract with the Department of Public Safety for security and law enforcement services in all facilities under their jurisdiction.

SB 1243 repeals a section of law which authorized OCIA to acquire real property for public hunting and fishing areas. ■



Alcohol, Tobacco, & Controlled Substances

Alcohol

HB 1723 enables caterers who offer alcoholic beverage sales at the location of someone seeking an on-premises license to acquire a storage license. This license permits them to store alcoholic beverages bought at unlicensed sites during the duration of the written agreement. Furthermore, it allows the storage license to be transferred to the on-premises applicant once they are granted licensure.

HB 3352 grants exemption from the Oklahoma Tax Commission bond requirement to Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement (ABLE) Commission license or permit holders who maintain 10 years of consistent tax payment compliance. This exemption is applicable to both existing and prospective license and permit holders meeting the eligibility criteria.

Additionally, the bill specifies that the bond exemption will be revoked if a license or permit holder becomes delinquent or noncompliant with tax payments, necessitating the provision of the original bond required by their license or permit.

HB 3571 removes the requirement that the ABLE Commission license holders check IDs before serving alcohol and allows them to retain discretion in verifying IDs. The measure does not exempt license holders from the prohibition of serving alcohol to individuals under 21 years of age.

HB 2178 allows holders of small farm winery, winemaker, or small brewer licenses to serve and sell wine or beer at public events for on-premises and off-premises consumption. The licensee may only serve in their serving area, and multiple licensees may combine their booths if necessary. The event originator or property manager may not require the seller to obtain any additional license or permit.

HB 3354 allows the ABLE Commission to hold its meetings off-site by eliminating the

requirement that the commission hold its meetings at its office.

SB 2001 lowers the annual spirits registration fee for brand label spirits from \$375 to \$75 if the yearly spirits production remains below 53 gallons and defines *straw testing* as the minimal alcohol consumption by a licensed employee aged 21 or older for assessing beverage quality. The measure provides an exception to the number of alcoholic beverages allowed on premises for educational training and tasting purposes, as long as the tasting:

- Occurs on the licensed premises;
- Is supervised by the licensee;
- Involves employees aged 21 or older;
- Is voluntary for the employee; and
- Limits the quantity of alcohol per type so that the consumption does not exceed 12 ounces of beer, 6 ounces of wine, and 1.3 ounces of spirits in one day.

SB 809 modifies the definitions of *cocktail* and *mixed beverage* under the Oklahoma Cocktails To Go Act of 2021. The measure permits mixed beverage and mixed beverage/caterer combination licensees to offer curbside pickup and delivery services and allows curbside delivery by a person 18 years of age or older. Additionally, customers may transport a cocktail in a sealed container from the licensed establishment as long as the licensee instructs the customer to store it out of reach of the driver's compartment.

SB 1057 restricts entertainment district tenant parties that hold a mixed beverage license to selling and serving mixed beverages solely within the confines of an entertainment district.

Medical Marijuana

HB 1349 creates the seven-member Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority

Executive Advisory Council to provide recommendations to the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA) regarding state policy, rules, or statute changes. Appointed members are exempt from the dual-office prohibition. The council must submit its recommendations to the Governor and Legislature annually by November 1.

SB 758 modifies background check prerequisites for employees in medical marijuana enterprises by mandating completion of a national fingerprint-based background check administered by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI). Additionally, the measure tasks OMMA with assessing the credential applications of these employees and granting credentials to those who complete the process. The legislation requires the authority to provide reasons for any rejections.

HB 1734 instructs OMMA to mandate owners and staff of medical marijuana establishments to provide their fingerprints to OSBI for a criminal background check. OMMA can require fingerprint submissions for license application or renewal. Fingerprint cards and associated fees must be sent to the OSBI central repository.

SB 1635 mandates that a medical marijuana business licensee furnish an affidavit for license renewal subsequent to presenting a certificate of compliance to OMMA. This affidavit must affirm the ongoing adherence of the business to zoning classifications, pertinent municipal ordinances, and all relevant safety, electrical, fire, plumbing, waste, construction, and building specification codes.

This requirement does not extend to a business licensee that submits a thorough application for a valid certificate of occupancy to the State Fire Marshal or a political subdivision with an existing jurisdiction agreement on file with the State Fire Marshal before February 1, 2024. Licensees bear the responsibility of adhering to applicable state codes.

Furthermore, the legislation delineates the terms *final harvest batch* and *final product* to set the standards for final product testing.

SB 1939 amends the provisions for the transfer of commercial marijuana licenses. The measure expands the subpoena power of OSBI to obtain personal identifying information of all owners and stakeholders in medical marijuana businesses. It also imposes restrictions on the cohabitation of multiple licenses of the same type, except for specific exemptions. The bill establishes a \$500 fee for late license renewal applications and shortens the window for late renewal eligibility from 90 to 30 days. Renewal applications must be submitted at least 60 days before expiration to be considered timely. OMMA must accept renewal applications at least 120 days before expiration. Ownership transfers of licenses require approval from OMMA and registration with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control (OBND). Conditional approvals are revoked if registration with OBND is denied. Businesses with pending license transfers have 30 days to reapply for a refund.

HB 3361 requires all medical marijuana products to be sold in prepackaged quantities ranging in size from one-half gram to 3 ounces. Nonopaque packaging materials are permissible, provided all other packaging and labeling regulations are adhered to, and the product is placed in an opaque container before leaving the dispensary. Displaying and smelling medical marijuana is also permitted. Additionally, OMMA is directed to establish rules for returning defective or hazardous pre-packaged products to dispensaries, returning products between licensed entities, and pre-packaging.

HB 3574 revises kratom product label requirements to include clear usage instructions,

a physician consultation warning, and a statement that prohibits any therapeutic claims unless approved by the FDA.

HB 2924 transfers \$25,790,651 from the State Treasury's Opioid Lawsuit Settlement Fund to the Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Revolving Fund under the Office of the Attorney General. \$20 million will be spent for budgeting and lawful expenditure and \$5,790,651 will be distributed to non-litigating subdivisions.

SB 1995 merges and consolidates the various changes that have been made to medical marijuana laws to avoid duplicate section issues.

Controlled Substances

HB 3567 is the OBND omnibus bill. The measure:

- Allows electronic prescriptions for compounded, compounded infusion, and prescriptions issued under approved research protocols;
- Requires that all written prescriptions use official forms from OBND, purchased by the medical provider, and sourced from approved vendors;
- Adds and alphabetizes definitions;
- Allows the director to issue orders for violations, with their order

becoming final if no individual proceeding is requested; and

- Requires registrants facing action to maintain registration and renew annually.

SB 1943 requires individuals who manufacture, distribute, or prescribe controlled dangerous substances or use them for scientific purposes to register with OBND annually. This includes qualifying out-of-state pharmaceutical suppliers and persons who own a public or private qualifying medical facility. Registrants are obligated to disclose all beneficial owners of their entity. Publicly traded entities are exempt from this disclosure requirement so long as the entity discloses all beneficial owners who exercise authority or control over controlled dangerous substances at each registered location.

The measure removes the provision imposing double registration fees for late renewals exceeding 30 days and eliminates the \$10 fee for duplicate registration certificates. Additionally, renewal applications will open annually on July 1 and must be submitted by September 1. Registrations not renewed by the end of the calendar year they were issued will become ineligible for renewal and require a new registration. The director may waive the requirement for a new registration if notice is given before expiration. New applications with significant changes from the original registration will not be regarded as a transfer of an ongoing activity. ■



Banking, Business, & Economic Development

Business and Commerce

HB 3595 directs the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC) to establish an online jobs center for employers to post job openings. OESC may require unemployment claimants to use the online platform to create an account, take a skills test, and add a resume.

HB 3158 requires the State Board of Cosmetology and Barbering to issue licenses to nonprofit schools within correctional facilities and modifies certain application procedures, including obtaining approval from the Department of Corrections. The schools may not charge tuition and must operate within designated areas. Inmates enrolled in these programs are considered low-income individuals and may receive fee waivers for licensure, certification, or renewal.

HB 3253 overhauls various definitions and requirements for architects, engineers, interior designers, and surveyors. The measure also authorizes the Board of Governors of the Licensed Architects, Landscape Architects, and Registered Commercial Interior Designers of Oklahoma to establish instructional programs for individuals currently licensed or seeking licensure as an architect or interior designer. The board may enter into agreements with educational organizations to facilitate courses in architecture, landscape architecture, or commercial interior design fields.

SB 979 allows the Oklahoma Abstractors Board to consider extenuating circumstances for abstractors who fail to provide an abstract, abstract extension, supplemental abstract, or final title report within specific time frames. Abstractors must notify the board within five business days of the receipt of orders that cannot be fulfilled on time. The board will respond within three days and establish alternative delivery options. If recognition is granted before the failure to deliver, it will not be considered an unnecessary delay. The

measure also increases civil penalties for violations of the Oklahoma Abstractors Act.

HB 3215 modifies continuing education requirements for electrical contractors, journeymen, and apprentices. Contractors and journeymen must complete 12 hours of continuing education every three years for license renewal. Apprentices must complete three hours of continuing education annually for registration renewal. Continuing education is not required for apprentices who are students or enrolled in an approved course. The measure also alters the qualifications for electrical licensing exams. A score of 70 percent or higher on each part of the exam is considered a passing score. Applicants must wait 30 days to retake the exam after each failure.

SB 649 authorizes a limited liability company (LLC) to form a registered series and allows a registered series to grant a security interest in its interests and assets. An LLC registered series can be dissolved independently, can merge with another registered series of the same entity, can be revived if it loses good standing, and can convert into a protected series of the same entity. A protected series can also convert to a registered series. The measure also authorizes an LLC to split into multiple LLCs and allocate its assets and liabilities among those LLCs.

SB 1492 modifies definitions related to the Oklahoma Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act and establishes a range of fees for mortgage broker and lender licenses with an annual assessment based on loan volumes. The measure also creates fees for additional trade names and license reinstatement. Additionally, the measure adjusts fees for mortgage loan originator licenses and increases the reimbursement cap for the Oklahoma Mortgage Broker and Mortgage Loan Originator Recovery Fund. Finally, the measure allows remote

work for licensee employees under specified conditions.

HB 1793 requires interior designers to be licensed by the Board of Governors of the Architects, Landscape Architects, and Licensed Interior Designers of Oklahoma rather than only commercially registered or certified. The Board of Governors may suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a license if an interior designer is guilty of gross incompetence, recklessness, or dishonest practices. Lastly, nonstructural interior construction projects no longer require an architect if a licensed interior designer performs the services.

HB 2141 adds eyelash extension application and blow-dry styling to services regulated under the Oklahoma Cosmetology and Barbering Act. The measure also modifies hourly training requirements for apprenticeship and licensure of all trades under the act. Hair braiding and shampooing services are exempted from licensure. Additionally, license fees are increased by \$15, with new \$40 fees for eyelash extension, blow-drying, and makeup services. Licenses must be renewed every two years instead of annually, with corresponding renewal fees.

SB 1572 requires the Construction Industries Board to register students with proper qualifications as apprentices rather than electrical interns. Student apprentices must also be employed with a licensed electrical contractor and may not apply more than 500 hours toward their journeyman requirements. A student's apprentice registration will expire on the last day of the school year, but they may re-register at the beginning of the following school year upon paying a fee.

HB 3596 requires employers to disclose the name and Social Security number of a previous employee when filing an objection to that employee's unemployment benefits claim. Additionally, the measure removes the requirement for documents to be hand-delivered to OESC when filed and repeals the section of law that requires an employer

to be considered an employer for the entire year if they were an employer at any point in the year.

SB 620 amends numerous provisions in the Oklahoma General Corporation Act and the Professional Entity Act. Significant changes include:

- Authorizing corporations to use networks of electronic databases for the creation and maintenance of their corporate records;
- Protecting corporate officers and directors from personal liability for certain breaches of a corporation's fiduciary duties;
- Allowing the use of captive insurance companies by corporations with certain restrictions; and
- Permitting foreign professional entities to render professional services in Oklahoma.
- Non-resident professionals must still qualify to practice under the Oklahoma licensing laws.

SB 927 modifies Oklahoma Real Estate License Code in the following ways:

- Authorizes the Oklahoma Real Estate Commission to issue cease and desist orders and contract with debt collection attorneys to recover unpaid administrative fines;
- Updates circumstances under which the commission may investigate or impose sanctions upon a real estate licensee;
- Updates the definition of *broker* to include a limited liability company;
- Increases, from three years to five years, the amount of time a person with a revoked license must wait before they can reapply;
- Increases the maximum financial penalty from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for knowingly and negligently violating the Code; and
- Expands allowable uses of money in the Oklahoma Real Estate Education and Recovery Fund.

SB 1920 requires real estate brokers to disclose in writing any compensation and fees assessed on each transaction before the effective date of the sale or lease contract. Brokers must also disclose the time frame the compensation agreement is valid.

SB 1193 appropriates \$636,802 from the Workforce Coordination Revolving Fund to the Oklahoma Workforce Commission for administrative costs.

SB 1194 obliges any remaining funds in the Workforce Coordination Revolving Fund as of July 1, 2024, for workforce development initiatives.

SB 1438 allows a heavy equipment rental business to offset personal property tax paid on rented equipment by assessing a 1.25 percent recovery fee for any item of heavy equipment rented by a consumer.

HB 3761 exempts home service and home warranty contracts from regulations under the Service Warranty Act.

HB 3970 excludes property fixtures and repair parts from the definition of *equipment* as it relates to the Fair Practices of Equipment Manufacturers, Distributors, Wholesalers and Dealers Act.

HB 3318 invalidates unfair service agreements related to the maintenance, purchase, or sale of residential real estate and prohibits the recording of such agreements in county records. Service agreements are considered unfair if the service subject is not performed within one year of the agreement date, or if the agreement automatically renews itself after one year and includes any provision that bind the agreement to future owners of the property, assigns a right to provide service without the consent or notice to the property owner or creates a lien or other real property security interest. County clerks are prohibited from recording unfair service agreements but are not liable if they accidentally do so. An interest owner of the property can ask the district court to declare an agreement unenforceable and can recover damages, cost and attorney fees against the service provider who recorded the unfair agreement.

HB 2995 requires an agreement to exist between a restaurant and a courier application service, such as Grub Hub, Door Dash, etc., in order to transport for delivery.

HB 3995 requires mobile food establishments that produce smoke or grease-laden vapors that do not have an automatic fire extinguishing system to install portable fire extinguishers. Portable fire extinguishers must be inspected annually and placed in an easily accessible location. The provisions of this measure are in effect until November 1, 2025.

Banking

HB 2776 amends the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) to establish rules and procedures for transactions involving digital assets referred to as controllable electronic records, which may include cryptocurrency and non-fungible tokens

(NFTs) as recommended by the Uniform Law Commission (ULC). A person in control of a controllable electronic record may utilize all the benefits of the property as well as prevent other parties from utilizing it. The measure allows lenders with control of digital assets to perfect a prioritized security interest over the interests of any other lenders. The measure also clarifies that money, by definition, must be a governmentally-authorized medium of exchange that is not in electric form. Additionally, there are new guidelines on hybrid transactions involving both goods and services. UCC rules will apply to hybrid transactions if the sale and lease of goods is the predominant purpose of the transaction rather than the sale of services or provision of property. If the sale of services or provision of property does predominate, UCC rules will only apply to the portion of the transaction on the sale or lease of goods.

HB 3778 creates the Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act, which is a uniform law developed by the ULC. The act creates a framework to govern access to a person's online accounts when the account owner dies or loses the ability to manage the account. Account owners may use an online tool to direct the custodian of the account to disclose some or all of the users digital assets to a named fiduciary. If the person did not use an online tool to name a fiduciary, the owners can grant access to a fiduciary by will, trust, power of attorney or another instrument conveying access.

SB 1819 adopts the Uniform Special Deposits Act as recommended by the ULC. The act establishes a framework for banks and their customers to utilize special deposits, which is a deposit of money at a bank for a particular purpose when the person entitled to the money is determined after a specified event or contingency occurs. For a special deposit to be governed by the act, the bank and the customer must agree to be covered by the act through their account agreement.

HB 4062 eliminates the sunset date for the small business guaranty fee tax credit and clarifies that the credit may only be claimed by banks that have a main office located in the state.

HB 4148 outlines a list of information that a creditor or debt collector must submit to the court in order to file an action to recover medical debt, which includes a redacted itemized copy of the medical bill and proof of compliance with the following hospital price transparency laws: the Public Health Services Act, rules adopted by the United State Department of Health and Human

Services, and Transparency in Health Care Prices Act.

HB 4150 expands the list of property exempt from bankruptcy proceeding to include any distribution from a retirement plan that is tax exempt or deferred.

HB 2981 allows money in the State Treasurer's Revolving Fund to be invested with state financial institutions.

Economic Development

SB 1447 creates the COMPETE Act, establishing two new divisions within the Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC): the Division on Economic Development, Growth, and Expansion (EDGE) and the Division on Community Outreach and Revitalization Enterprise (CORE). EDGE and CORE will collaborate to encourage economic stability in the state, improve the economic competitiveness of the state, and implement the strategic plan for the department. The primary duties for EDGE will be to serve as the state's lead economic development point of contact and the primary duties for CORE will be to focus on the long-term development of local communities to increase competitiveness and enhance economic opportunities.

Furthermore, the measure adds the Oklahoma Workforce Commission as a collaborator on the state's five-year economic development plan and requires the plan to include an economic development strategy that addresses target industries, site development, and workforce needs. Lastly, the measure creates the eight-member Legislative Evaluation and Development Committee to review financing for incentive packages that are greater than \$20 million.

HB 3959 expands the Oklahoma Quality Jobs Program to allow professional sports teams from the NFL, NBA, NHL, MLB, or MLS to receive quarterly rebate payments for up to 5 percent of the actual gross pay of sport-league jobs employed by the team for the duration of the team's existence in Oklahoma. Qualifying businesses must submit an application to ODOC and have at least \$10 million in new payrolls within one year. Rebate payments are capped at \$10 million per year per team and will be clawed back if the team does not stay in Oklahoma for more than three years. The Oklahoma Tax Commission is authorized to set aside income tax revenue to pay for the incentive payments, which will be placed in the newly created Oklahoma Five Major Sports League Rebate Payment Fund.

SB 2017 establishes reporting requirements for any entity that receives Local Development Act payments. Receiving

entities must submit the information every year to ODOC and must include payroll and employment data, property valuation data, and capital investment data related to the project or facility location or expansion. The department is required to make the information public on its website.

Insurance

SB 1457 qualifies mental injury or illness sustained by a first responder as a compensable workplace injury. It provides compensation guidelines, including 70 percent of the average weekly wage, temporary pension benefits, and permanent disability benefits of up to \$50,000. The measure also requires employers to provide necessary treatment for up to one year for first responders diagnosed with PTSD, with a cap of \$10,000 on prescription medication expenses.

SB 1334 requires health benefit plans to cover expenses for standard fertility preservation services for individuals diagnosed with cancer and where necessary treatments may cause infertility. Preauthorization for these services is not required, but the plan may have limitations and cost-sharing mechanisms like deductibles or copayments. Religious employers can request exemptions based on their beliefs, but they must inform prospective enrollees of this exemption.

SB 542 authorizes the Insurance Commissioner to:

- Examine all of an individual's or organization's records if they fall under the commissioner's jurisdiction;
- Make and enforce rules and regulations;
- Issue cease and desist orders;
- Approve an insurer's redomestication application without first holding a public hearing, but denial of redomestication will still require a public hearing before becoming final; and
- Impose fines of up to \$5,000 for violations of insurance statutes, rules, bulletins, or orders.

Further, the measure requires individuals and organizations under the jurisdiction of the Insurance Commissioner to electronically respond to the commissioner's inquiries within 20 days. Electronic filings with the Insurance Department must include payment of any transaction, filing, or other applicable fees. Insurers must also keep any contact information deemed necessary by the commissioner on file with

the Insurance Department and submit any changes to such information within 20 days of the change. Lastly, the measure repeals the sections of law on the Pharmacy Choice Commission.

SB 543 creates the Insurance Data Security Act. The measure requires insurance licensees to maintain a security program that protects private information. Each licensee must conduct a risk assessment and its security program must address any risks identified. Licensees are also required to establish an incident response plan in the case of a cybersecurity event. The measure exempts any licensee with less than \$5 million in gross annual revenue or subject to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) from the provisions in this act. Licensees that lose their exemption status will have 180 days to become compliant.

HB 3369 modifies the appeal procedures for state employees regarding insurance issues, which is the responsibility of the Oklahoma Employees Insurance and Benefits Board. Adverse benefits determinations based on medical judgment, insurer compliance with surprise billing and cost-sharing protections, or a rescission in coverage will be handled externally by an independent review organization. The current three-member grievance panel will handle complaints for all other issues.

HB 3090 outlines procedures for reorganizing a mutual insurer into a stock insurer and provides that its articles of incorporation and bylaws will be amended on the effective date of the reorganization. Owners of policies issued by the converted stock insurer also become members of the mutual holding company. The mutual holding company acquires all shares of the converted stock insurer and any intermediate stock holding company. The converted stock insurer continues the corporate existence of the converting mutual insurer, retaining rights, contracts, and obligations. The conversion plan must be approved or disapproved by the Insurance Commissioner and eligible members of the converting mutual insurer within 60 days.

HB 3091 modifies various provisions in the insurance code by:

- Modifying circumstances necessitating a due diligence search for a surplus lines licensee or broker;
- Requiring the surplus lines licensee or broker to submit all fee and tax filings and payments, including applicable transaction fees, electronically as mandated by the Insurance Commissioner;

- Allowing an appointed independent hearing examiner to impose administrative penalties;
- Authorizing the Insurance Department to deny or refuse to renew third-party administrator licenses under certain criteria; and
- Modifying the authorization for an Insurance Business Transfer to gain approval from the Insurance Commissioner and district court.

SB 1333 transfers the Volunteer Firefighter Group Insurance Pool to the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) Comprehensive Professional Risk Management Program. Existing reserves from the pool must remain with CompSource Mutual Insurance Company to pay for prior claims. Volunteer fire departments can obtain workers' compensation insurance through the pool. OMES may hire staff or contract a third-party administrator for pool administration. A premium of \$120 per firefighter is collected from state agencies and related entities. OMES must report pool enrollment and financial status to designated officials and notify them of rate changes. The measure also creates the Volunteer Firefighter Group Insurance Pool Revolving Fund.

SB 541 requires any administrator of a debt waiver program or creditor operating as an administrator of vehicle value protection agreements to register with the Insurance Department. Registrations will be renewed by July 15 of each year and any registration changes must be filed within 30 days of the change. The measure also provides that any expired service warranty association license may be restored within 90 days after the expiration date by submitting a renewal application with a fee double that of the renewal fee. After the 90 days, a license holder will have to reapply as if they are a new applicant and pay a double initial application fee.

SB 1627 authorizes insurers to send electronic notice of cancellation for a commercial marine, automobile, property, casualty, and fire policies with recipient consent. The measure also allows employers to electronically cancel their carrier's workers compensation policy with recipient consent.

HB 1505 authorizes insurers to post insurance policies or endorsements on their website. The policy must be easy to

access, print, and save. The insurer must also provide information on the declarations page detailing how to request a paper or electronic copy and where to find the policies online. Once a policy expires, the insurer must archive the policy according to record retention requirements and make it available upon request.

HB 1506 requires a title insurance producer to provide a copy of a previously issued policy to the insured within three business days upon request at no charge.

HB 4151 prohibits a title insurance company from requiring a mortgagor or a judgement debtor to pay a fee for an affidavit recorded by the company under certain circumstances.

HB 3304 allows the sponsor of a health benefit plan to consent to electronic communication on behalf of covered individuals enrolled in the plan. Before consenting, a sponsor must ensure the covered person routinely uses their email and must inform the person of their intent to provide consent. The insurer must inform the insured of the types of communications sent, how to withdraw consent, and the option to receive paper documents instead.

SB 1631 requires health benefit plans to notify healthcare providers within 10 days of denying their credentialing application with the reason for the denial.

HB 3586 updates the name of the State and Education Employees Group Insurance to Oklahoma Employees Insurance and Benefits. The measure also repeals sections of law relating to the Mutual Accountability Incentive Pilot Program and the Wellness Program Act.

SB 1941 requires law enforcement agencies to promptly inform requesting bondsmen or insurers of the cost of travel expenses to return a defendant to custody. The bondsman or insurer can decline to pay these expenses, prompting the agency to release the hold on the defendant. If the agency can't reach the bondsman or insurer, they must still honor the guaranteed travel expenses.

SB 857 modifies the definition of *armed bail enforcer* by replacing *pistol* with *firearm* as it pertains to authorized carry.

HB 2872 sets a minimum reimbursement rate for out-of-network ambulance services by a healthcare insurer. This rate is

based on the rates approved by the local government where the ambulance service starts. If no local rates are set, the rate will be the lesser of either 325 percent of the current published rate for ambulance services or the ambulance service provider's billed charges. Additionally, out-of-network rates cannot be higher than in-network rates.

HJR 1035 approves the proposed medical provider fee schedule for the maximum workers' compensation rates as updated by the Workers' Compensation Commission.

SB 805 exonerates a bond when the defendant's bondsman or insurer requests that the prosecuting attorney file felony bond jumping charges against the defendant for:

- Failure to appear for court;
- Failure to surrender within 30 days; and
- Failure of the prosecuting attorney to file charges within 30 business days.

Technology

HB 3594 establishes Title 75A in the Oklahoma Statutes to address laws and regulations related to technology. The measure defines numerous terms related to blockchain and digital asset mining and outlines a series of actions that the state and local governments are prohibited from doing to hinder or restrict the use of digital asset for purchases, commercial asset mining, home asset mining, staking, or operating nodes on a blockchain network. All actions and transactions by industries addressed in Title 75A may be subject to the jurisdiction of the Oklahoma Department of Securities.

HB 1600 provides a sales tax exemption for sales of machinery and equipment used for commercial mining of digital assets until December 31, 2029. The mining must occur in a qualified colocation facility that has a load reduction agreement with its retail electric supplier. Eligible equipment includes, but is not limited to, servers, computers, racks, power distribution units, cabling, switchgears, transformers, substations, software, network equipment, and electricity. ■



Common Education

Curriculum

SB 362 modifies various provisions of the newly renamed Strong Readers Act. The measure establishes the Statewide Literacy Revolving Fund to support teacher training programs in the science of reading. It prohibits schools from using the “three-cueing system” for reading instruction and requires the approval of reading screening instruments by the State Board of Education in consultation with relevant educational bodies.

Additionally, the measure mandates individual reading intervention plans for students showing deficiencies in reading, along with parental notification within 30 days of identifying the deficiencies. School districts are required to report reading proficiency skills and intervention outcomes to the State Department of Education (SDE), publish annual reports on district websites, and modify the procedure for remediating retained students. The measure also eliminates the intense reading instruction for kindergarteners through third-graders who are exhibiting a reading deficiency, removes the good-cause exemption for students not demonstrating proficiency by the third grade, and introduces new requirements for teacher candidates and individuals seeking alternative placement teaching certificates for elementary education.

HB 3278 modifies certain graduation requirements beginning in the 2025-26 school year. The new requirements include four units of math, which must include algebra I and algebra II or geometry, and six pathway units that align with each student’s individual career and academic plan. District boards of education must also approve three additional elective units of any subject. A postsecondary-approved full-time CareerTech program or locally approved course may satisfy the required physical science or remaining math units.

HB 2672 allows a high school student to choose to complete the state’s new

graduation requirements in the 2024-2025 school year instead of the 2025-2026 school year, as long as they have parental approval.

HB 2158 requires students to complete a half unit of personal financial literacy coursework to graduate. The coursework may be integrated into an existing class or taught on its own in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade. The coursework must include information about retirement planning, investing, online banking, and credit scores.

HB 3727 requires schools to provide cursive handwriting instruction for students in third through fifth grade.

Safety

HB 4073 requires public school districts to implement mobile panic alert systems from a State Board of Education-approved list. Every system should be capable of the following:

- Connecting emergency service technologies among first responder agencies;
- Transmitting 911 calls and mobile activations;
- Alerting school personnel when an emergency response is initiated on-site by a phone application, phone call, text message, or other technology;
- Providing emergency responders with floor plans and caller location; and
- Integrating school personnel with emergency responders to provide updates during an emergency.

HB 3958 requires schools to include parents or guardians in any digital communication between a staff member and an individual student. School staff are not required to include parents on academic communications with students through

school-approved platforms. Exceptions may also be made in cases of emergencies.

SB 1521 modifies the School Resource Officer program. The measure requires schools to prioritize hiring a law enforcement officer as their resource officer. If the local law enforcement agency is unwilling or unable to provide an officer, a school can hire a retired law enforcement officer or a licensed armed security guard. The hired individual must be pre-authorized by the local law enforcement agency, and the school must conduct a background check. The local law enforcement agency must also provide the officer with a police radio, which can be funded through the School Security Revolving Fund.

SB 1921 requires schools to create a sudden cardiac emergency response plan which:

- Creates a cardiac emergency response team for each school site;
- Coordinates with local emergency medical service providers;
- Implements the use of automated external defibrillators (AED) and routine maintenance of AEDs in accordance with national guidelines; and
- Places AEDs at each athletic venue or within one to three minutes of each venue.

School nurses, athletic trainers, and other relevant school staff are also required to complete the cardiac arrest training required by the State Department of Health as well as training in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and use of an automated external defibrillator.

SB 175 requires school districts to provide district-wide suicide awareness and

prevention training for staff at least once every five years.

School Finance

SB 1122 outlines the spending limits for the FY 2025 appropriations for public school funding. Some of the most significant allocations include:

- \$3,089,255,079 through the State Aid Funding Formula;
- \$365,793,470 for health benefits of certified employees;
- \$204,211,359 for health benefits of support employees;
- \$35,000,000 for teachers' retirement credit;
- \$45,190,000 for purchasing textbooks and instructional materials;
- \$2,500,000 for the public school paid maternity leave revolving fund;
- \$17,500,000 for the Reading Sufficiency Act;
- \$13,405,685 for required assessments;
- \$3,140,137 for school lunch matching;
- \$750,000 for the secure schools program; and
- \$19,145,366 for administrative and support functions of SDE.

The Governor line-item vetoed a section of the measure that would have prohibited SDE from not seeking federal grant funding it had previously received without first obtaining approval from legislative leadership. The Governor also vetoed another section that would have prohibited SDE from using its funds for public relations and promotional activities unless it is required by a grant program.

SB 1522 authorizes schools to use the Redbud funds in the same manner as their building funds. The measure also repeals a duplicate section of law.

SB 1256 removes the requirement that school districts pay for salary increases for advanced, lead, and master level teachers and instead requires the state to provide the entire salary increase from lottery funds. The measure also clarifies the salary increase amounts.

HB 2917 changes the formula used to determine a charter school or virtual charter school's funding for the beginning of the school year. The measure removes a provision of law requiring the schools' August enrollment to be multiplied by 1.333

every year. Now this calculation will only occur for a school's first year in operation. For subsequent years, the weighted average daily membership will be used to calculate initial funding.

HB 2190 authorizes a school district's board of education to establish a casualty and flood insurance recovery fund to purchase a high-deductible property insurance policy.

SB 1432 modifies how funds are transferred from the Oklahoma Education Lottery Trust Fund to various recipients. Common Education and Higher Education will receive an equal share of their annual allocation on a monthly basis. CareerTech, the School Consolidation Assistance Fund, and the Teachers' Retirement System Dedicated Revenue Revolving Fund will receive an equal share of their annual allocation on a quarterly basis. Any remaining funds will be made available as appropriations the following legislative session. The measure repeals two sections of law on the Fidelity Revolving Fund and negotiable bonds and promissory notes issued by the Lottery Commission.

Miscellaneous

HB 1425 requires schools to excuse a student's absence for up to three class periods per week or a maximum of 125 periods per year to attend religious or moral instruction courses provided by independent entities off school property.

SB 1527 requires schools to excuse a student's absence for speech therapy, occupational therapy, or any other service related to their individualized education program (IEP) upon written request from a parent or guardian.

HB 1006 requires schools to excuse a student's absence for 4-H activities approved by the county 4-H educator.

SB 1904 allows schools that operate full-time virtual education programs to administer state assessments for grades 3-8 in a virtual setting that bests meet the students' needs. The measure lists specific requirements for the virtual assessments.

HB 3386 allows students to transfer twice per year to another school within the same district, except when the receiving school is full for that grade level. Districts must establish a policy for intra-district transfers, giving preferences to students within the school boundary, previous attendees, siblings of current students, children of district employees, and students who change residence within the boundary. Districts must also adopt a capacity policy

for accepting transfer students with disabilities.

SB 358 expands the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship to students enrolled in a school that exclusively serves homeless students.

SB 1324 directs the SDE to provide school districts with an electronic application for free or reduced-price meals, enabling parents to submit the form online if they choose.

HB 3523 requires SDE to publish an annual report detailing the qualifications that determine the eligibility of adjunct teachers, the subjects adjunct teachers are covering, and the types of qualifications adjunct teachers possess that qualify them to teach certain subjects.

SB 526 requires any school that chooses to map its campus with the intent of helping first responders to use mapping software that is compatible with software used by public safety agencies. Data must also be printable and digital, accurate according to on-site inspections, and labeled for structures, grounds, and coordinates. It should align with true north and overlay aerial imagery.

SB 1713 requires schools that purchase insurance through interlocal cooperative agreements to have a board of directors that meets certain requirements. The board must include one member who is a member of the American Academy of Actuaries and another member who has more than 10 years of professional experience in property and casualty insurance.

SB 1985 ensures that school districts can use church property for political, literary, community, cultural, scientific, mechanical, agricultural, or parental involvement purposes.

SB 1307 removes restrictions to allow anyone aged 21 to 26 who was unable to complete high school to return to school upon approval from the school board. The measure waives state testing requirements for such students. The measure also waives state testing requirements for students aged 19 or older who are in an adult high school completion program.

HB 3327 authorizes school staff to electronically monitor diabetic students' glucose numbers on school or personal devices with parent or guardian permission.

HB 3737 requires SDE to create informational materials about Type 1 Diabetes for parents and guardians. The materials will be periodically updated and published on the department's website. Schools must provide copies of these

materials to parents and guardians upon enrollment and in the sixth grade.

SB 1651 allows a school district board of education to accept students from a contiguous, out-of-state district without charging tuition if the receiving school district does not receive State Aid funds and has a per-pupil expenditure that is above the state average per-pupil expenditure. The measure clarifies that such out-of-state students are not eligible for State Aid, and no local funds from the out-of-state district are to be allocated or transferred to the receiving district.

HB 2260 requires a school superintendent who is recommending the termination of a teacher for matters involving sexual abuse to forward their recommendation to the State Board of Education unless court orders require the terms of a settlement to be kept confidential or is the result of an agreement between the teacher and school district to avoid civil litigation.

HB 1544 classifies an athletic trainer employed by a school district as a teacher if the trainer is certified with the National Athletic Trainers' Association and currently

licensed by the Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision.

SB 1550 renames the Oklahoma Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research Advisory Committee as the Oklahoma Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research Advisory Committee. The measure modifies certain committee duties and adds a pre-K through 12th grade representative as a committee member.

SB 1229 extends the sunset date for the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Board to July 1, 2029. ■



Criminal Justice

SB 2039 creates the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services Revolving Fund within the Office of the Attorney General (AG). The AG is to expend monies from the fund to provide statewide access to a stable system of delivery of services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, promote a coordinated community approach to serving victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, and provide access to services through dedicated support of underserved population programs. Any entity receiving monies from the fund must have full certification as a domestic violence and sexual assault victim service agency, be a nonprofit, and be subject to an annual audit. The first 5 percent of monies from the fund are to go to qualified entities serving underserved populations. Additionally, \$200,000 is for each qualified entity operating a shelter program and \$150,000 is for each qualified entity operating a crisis intervention center. Grants are to be proportionally reduced if grants awarded exceed the monies in the fund. The measure splits the fund into two accounts. One account is to receive 30 percent; the remainder is to be deposited in the other account. Monies in the 30 percent account are to be expended in counties with a population of 600,000 or greater. Monies from the other account are to be expended in counties with a population of less than 600,000. The engeneral appropriations bill, **SB 1125**, directs \$17 million to the fund.

SB 1835 creates the Oklahoma Survivors' Act to require the court to consider as a mitigating factor a person's history of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse prior to sentencing. The defendant must provide documentary evidence corroborating that the defendant was a victim of domestic violence at the time the offense was committed. Additionally, the defendant must provide a court record, presentence report, social services record, hospital record, or a sworn statement from a person who is not the defendant. Other evidence outlined in the measure

may also be provided to corroborate the abuse. If the court determines that the defendant was the victim of domestic abuse or the subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological abuse at the time the offense was committed, the court is to depart from the applicable sentence ranges outlined in the measure. This departure cannot be applied to an offense that requires the defendant to register as a sex offender, offenses relating to child abuse, or offenses resulting in the defendant receiving the death penalty. Persons who were previously convicted of an offense may have a hearing to determine if the provisions of the Oklahoma Survivors' Act are applicable to their convictions. Offenders previously convicted of a crime who qualify for the reduced sentencing must submit a request for resentencing. Applicants must provide similar documentary evidence as outlined previously in the measure.

SB 1933 creates the 17-member Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) Board within the AG with the powers and duties to:

- Examine the process for gathering and analyzing sexual assault forensic evidence kits;
- Develop a plan for the prioritization and acceptance of untested kits;
- Identify procedures for testing anonymous kits;
- Identifying improvements for victim access to evidence other than kits, including police reports and other physical evidence;
- Identifying additional rights of victims concerning the kit testing process;
- Identifying and pursuing grants and other funding sources to address untested kits, reduce testing wait times, provide victim notification, and improve efficiencies in the kit testing process; and

- Develop a training plan for equipping and enhancing the work of law enforcement, prosecutors, victim advocates, sexual assault nurse examiners, and sexual assault response teams in all jurisdictions in the state.

The measure directs the board to:

- Promulgate rules regarding the collection of sexual assault forensic evidence and maintain related statistical information;
- Establish procedures for obtaining initial information regarding the collection of sexual assault forensic evidence from medical and law enforcement entities;
- Review the practices and procedures of medical and law enforcement systems; and
- Request and obtain a copy of all records and reports pertaining to sexual assault forensic evidence and submit an annual statistical report.

In an effort to address the rape kits backlog, the general appropriation bill, **SB 1125**, provides \$1.5 million to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI).

HB 3157 creates a graduated penalty for those convicted of maintaining or operating a house of prostitution. A person convicted is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment of up to 5 years and a fine of up to \$5,000 on a first offense. Upon a second or third conviction, the fine increases to up to \$10,000 and \$15,000, respectively. Any person convicted of maintaining a house of prostitution where a victim of the offense is a minor is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment of up to 15 years and a fine of up to \$10,000 for a first offense. Upon a second or third conviction, the fine increases to up to \$20,000 and \$30,000, respectively.

SB 1211 increases the punishment for assault and battery by strangulation

or attempted strangulation against an intimate partner or household member from a maximum of three years to a maximum of 10 years in prison.

HB 3752 allows the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board to request and obtain records of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections (DOC). The measure adds an additional member to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board by including a DOC designee who has a minimum of five years of experience in corrections and is currently assigned to the Community Outreach, Programs, or Population Units of the Department.

HB 1792 places Oklahoma's over 2,000 felonies into 14 different categories based on the severity of the crime. Furthermore, it aligns sentence ranges with current practices based on data derived from judicial sentencing orders, rather than actual time served. The measure sets standard sentencing ranges and minimum time served requirements for Class C and D felonies, with the severity of these sentences increasing after repeat offenses.

SB 1994 provides for the removal of unlawful occupants of property. The measure authorizes property owners to request the sheriff of a county in which the property is located to immediately remove a person or persons unlawfully occupying real property if certain conditions are met. The sheriff must serve a notice to immediately vacate on all unlawful occupants of the property prior to their removal. The measure authorizes the sheriff to arrest any person found on the property for trespass, outstanding warrants, or any other legal cause. Any person wrongfully removed may bring a civil cause of action. Additionally, the measure creates a felony for unlawfully occupying a property and causing intentional damages greater than \$1,000. The measure establishes a maximum term of imprisonment at three years and/or a maximum fine of \$10,000. Any person who presents a false document purporting to be a valid lease agreement or deed is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in the county jail, a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both.

SB 1854 prohibits any person from setting up unauthorized camps on state-owned lands. An *unauthorized camp* is defined in the measure as any tent, shelter, or bedding constructed for overnight sleeping on property not designated as a campsite. Violators are subject to a \$50 fine or up to 15 days in the county jail or both if convicted. A first offense will result in a warning and the arresting officer may not issue a citation unless the violator refuses assistance such as transportation to

a shelter or food pantry, or other available indigent resources.

SB 1735 provides that any person who intends to commit a crime that enters an area of a commercial business reserved for personnel of the commercial business or clearly marked with a sign that indicates that public entry is prohibited is guilty of a misdemeanor. The crime is punishable by a term of imprisonment in the county jail for up to one year, a fine of up to \$500 or both fine and imprisonment. A second or subsequent conviction is a felony punishable by up to two years in prison, a fine of up to \$1,000 or both fine and imprisonment.

HB 3996 modifies the crime of embezzlement by appropriation by reducing the time frame for returning leased or rented property after the agreement expires from 10 days to 48 hours.

SB 1877 modifies the period of time for which a prosecutor may aggregate crimes of larceny. The measure lengthens from 90 days to 180 days in which the value of the goods involved in the larceny may be aggregated to determine the total value for purposes of determining the appropriate punishment.

HB 3568 directs OSBI to establish necessary policies, procedures, and forms for participation in a rapid DNA investigative lead program outlining the collection and processing of crime scene samples utilizing rapid DNA instrumentation.

HB 4069 modifies the crime of falsely manufacturing credit and debit cards to include the cloning or altering of any credit, debit, or similar card containing a magnetic strip capable of storing data. The possession of three or more cloned or altered cards is a rebuttable presumption that the person possesses the cards with the intent to defraud. The possession of up to five cloned or altered cards is a felony punishable by imprisonment of two to five years and a fine of up to \$5,000. Possession of six to 20 cards is a felony punishable by imprisonment of five to 10 years and a fine of up to \$10,000. Possession of more than 20 cards is a felony punishable by imprisonment of 10 to 20 years and a fine of up to \$100,000.

SB 859 modifies the penalties for firearm theft, increasing the maximum term of imprisonment from two to five years and the maximum fine from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

SB 1280 classifies combining fentanyl with any other controlled dangerous substance as a felony punishable by imprisonment of seven years to life in prison and a fine of at least \$50,000. Any person who manufactures or attempts to manufacture 10 or more grams of a substance containing

a detectable amount of fentanyl is guilty of aggravated manufacturing.

SB 11 allows an incarcerated individual who is within five years of being released to be eligible for a state tuition aid grant.

Criminal Procedure

HB 2478 requires courts to hold a hearing within 10 days of filing for temporary orders when an application includes domestic abuse allegations and either an emergency temporary protective order is issued or the other party faces criminal charges for domestic abuse.

HB 3782 creates a rebuttable presumption that no conditions of release on bond would assure the safety of the community if the state shows by clear and convincing evidence that the person was arrested for a violent offense and released on bond or committed a crime listed as a violent crime while out on bond.

SB 325 modifies the timeframe for beginning a trial after a person's initial appearance if the person is held in jail. The measure requires that a person must be brought to trial within nine months and adds acceptable reasons for trial postponement to include situations in which no court reporter is available. If a court determines after a hearing that the right to a speedy trial has not been violated, the court will set the case for review within three months.

SB 771 prohibits licensed mental health professionals from giving expert opinions on competency or dangerousness in cases involving alleged incompetency due to intellectual disability unless they are qualified forensic examiners. The Office of Public Guardian may participate in proceedings related to intellectual disability as necessary.

HB 3960 removes the court's ability to suspend the sentence of or give probation to a third or subsequent DUI offender.

SB 1660 allows peace officers to obtain a search warrant to enter, search for, and seize a person with an outstanding arrest warrant. If a search warrant is executed at a third-party residence, the peace officer must return the warrant to the authorizing magistrate, either by filing an arrest and booking affidavit or by filing a separate return identifying the person and the location where they were found.

SB 1711 allows a person to appear virtually in district court if they are in custody in a different county than the county in which the case is filed.

SB 1724 allows a court to enter a written order requiring Service Oklahoma to

stay actions related to the suspension of Class D driving privileges if the offender's license has been revoked for an issue other than reckless driving or driving under the influence. This applies when the court determines that there are no other means of transportation for the offender participating in a community sentencing program. The court will decide whether to maintain jurisdiction over the offender after they successfully complete the program.

SB 1770 redefines *expungement* to ensure that fully sealed expunged records are not accessible to the public or law enforcement and may only be accessed by designated OSBI employees for research and statistical purposes. Multiple offenses in one county may be considered under a single expungement petition if processed sequentially. Any offense that has been expunged cannot be considered a prior offense when determining the eligibility for expungement of a later offense. Additionally, courts must submit a copy of an order to OSBI if a judgment of conviction is set aside and the case is dismissed due to the individual being exonerated through

DNA testing. The measure also defines *source record* to mean a criminal history that only consists of an Oklahoma arrest record.

Corrections

HB 3612 allows a court to hold the execution of a sentence of imprisonment in abeyance upon a motion of the district attorney if the offender has a pending sentence of incarceration in the custody of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. An offender must be returned to the custody of DOC upon release from federal custody to serve the remainder of the state sentence. The court must consider the safety of the public, personnel of DOC, personnel of law enforcement agencies, other inmates, and the offender when determining granting the abeyance. The department is responsible for the transportation of the offender from federal custody to state custody.

SB 1528 requires the compact administrator for the Oklahoma State

Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision to be a nonvoting member of the council.

SB 1668 allows a sheriff to contract with a private security firm to guard any detainee or prisoner temporarily housed for treatment in a medical facility outside the confines of the jail. No private security firm may be used to transport a prisoner to or from an outside medical facility. Only the sheriff or deputy sheriff may transport a prisoner.

SB 1702 outlines the confidentiality requirement and discovery exemptions related to the death penalty execution process. The confidentiality requirement and discovery exemption must be broadly interpreted and include documents, records, photographs, or other information that could potentially identify any person or entity who participates in the execution process or who supplies the drugs, medical supplies, or medical equipment for the execution. ■



Elections & Ethics

HB 3156 prohibits the use of several types of voting systems, including ranked choice voting and instant runoff voting, in elections conducted in Oklahoma. The map below shows the 10 states that have banned ranked-choice voting.

HB 1105 extends the timeframe to file a protest of constitutionality or objection to the Secretary of State's count of initiative petition signatures from 10 business days to 90 days.

SB 518 mandates that individuals endorsing a petition for ballot placement

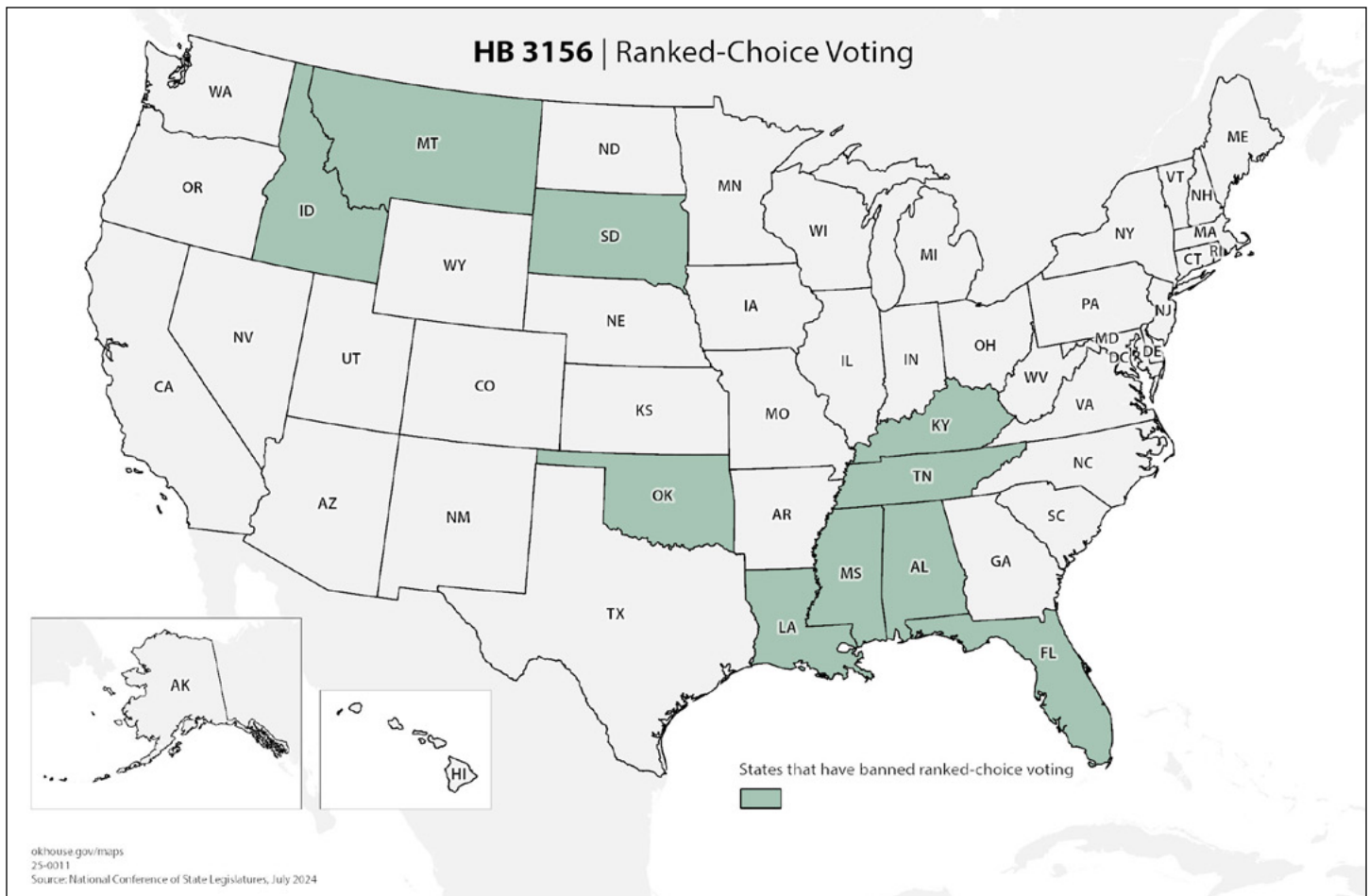
must use their legal names and grants the Secretary of State the authority to impose a filing fee of up to \$750 to fund the publication of notices about petition filings, which must be displayed on the Secretary's website. The measure also requires that notification of filings must be furnished to legislative leaders. Additionally, the measure extends the time frame for contesting a petition from 10 days to 20 days following its publication.

SB 1452 provides an income tax exemption to any employer that grants paid leave for their employees to work as a volunteer poll

worker for a county election board. The exemption is equal to \$100 per day of paid leave granted.

HB 1629 allows convicted felons whose crime has been reclassified as a misdemeanor and has received a commutation to register to vote.

HB 3511 extends the deadline for setting a special primary election from 20 to 30 days after the close of the filing period. It introduces a special runoff primary election, which must occur at least 20 days after the special primary election, followed by



a special general election not less than 20 days later. The measure also incorporates runoff primary elections into the provision and clarifies the State Election Board's absentee ballot distribution schedule.

SB 1146 creates the Ethics Commission Electronic Filing System Replacement Fund to pay for the replacement of the commission's electronic filing system.

SJR 23 proposes a constitutional amendment to clarify that only citizens of the United States are qualified to vote in Oklahoma. ■



Energy & Utilities

Energy

SB 1505 expands the Oklahoma Emission Reduction Technology Rebate Program to include downstream oil and gas production, refining and distribution activities. The current program offers a 25 percent rebate for the cost of implementing a qualified emissions reduction project. The measure also requires the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to create an expenditure preapproval process for rebate applicants and creates a separate revolving fund for rebating downstream activities. The general appropriations bill, **SB 1125**, provides \$50 million in one-time funding for the program.

SB 1569 modifies the Oklahoma Carbon Sequestration Enhancement Act by removing the Conservation Commission's jurisdiction over Class VI underground injection wells used for storing carbon dioxide.

SB 1535 adds nuclear energy research and development to the Low Carbon Energy Initiative Program's core tasks and expands the board from 11 to 13 members. One new board member must represent an electric utility regulated by the Corporation Commission, and the other must represent the nuclear energy industry.

SB 1587 expands the Oklahoma Electric Vehicle Charging Act to include fuel cell electric vehicles and infrastructure. The measure further clarifies that an electric supplier or municipality may use its own EV charging station or hydrogen fueling station for serving its own electric vehicles.

SB 18 adds hydrogen sulfide and carbon oxides emissions to the definition of *oil and gas produced water and waste* when the substances are byproducts of natural gas production. Further, producers using recycled water are protected from liability if they sequestered hydrogen sulfides and

carbon oxides during the natural gas production process.

HB 4065 amends the definition of *public utility* to exclude green hydrogen producers that generate electricity used on-site, as long as the producer does not provide retail electricity.

SB 1370 requires the Oklahoma Low Carbon Energy Initiative program to satisfy equipment needs related to seismic activity monitoring.

Utilities

HB 2367 creates exceptions to the Open Meeting Act for members of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC), allowing them to attend public events, even if a quorum is present, and discuss certain matters relevant to the commission. The members may not discuss pending legislative proceedings of the commission or appropriation of OCC funds. Within five days of the event where a quorum is present outside of a public meeting, the commissioners must report on its website the subject matter received or discussed, unless OCC wishes to take potential action on the subject. In that case, the potential action item shall be documented at least 48 hours before OCC considers the item. Lastly, the measure requires periodic training on the Open Meeting Act for commissioners and designated staff.

HB 4095 amends the Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act by:

- Defining *watch and protect, pre-excavation meeting request, and large projects*;
- Amending the definition of *underground facility* to include projects in a private easement;
- Prohibiting excavation projects designated as "watch and protect" from taking place without

the operator or designated representative present;

- Requiring that "watch and protect" projects submit contact information to the Oklahoma One-Call System;
- Creating a meeting notification process for large projects; and
- Requiring the Oklahoma One-Call System to keep notifications and positive responses for at least four years.

HB 3050 reduces the amount of time allowed to appeal an OCC ruling related to violations of the Petroleum Storage Tank Consolidation Act from 60 days to 30 days.

HB 3053 directs OCC to evaluate the regulatory relationship between the state and the Southwest Power Pool and report its findings to the Governor and Legislature by November 1, 2024.

HB 3863 adds federally recognized Indian tribes to the list of organizations that may verify domestic abuse claims when a victim is seeking a waiver from a utility company's initial credit and deposit requirement.

SB 1159 sets the \$8.5 million budget limit for the Public Utility Division of the Corporation Commission for FY 2025.

Water

HB 2889 appropriates \$20 million from the Progressing Rural Economic Prosperity (PREP) Fund to DEQ for water system improvements in between State Highway 94 and 95 in Texas County.

HB 2890 appropriates \$50 million from the Progressing Rural Economic Prosperity (PREP) fund to DEQ for upgrades to the levees along the Arkansas River and tributaries in northeast Oklahoma. The

appropriation allows the state to be eligible for federal matching funds.

SB 1914 requires all permit holders within a groundwater irrigation district to participate in the district.

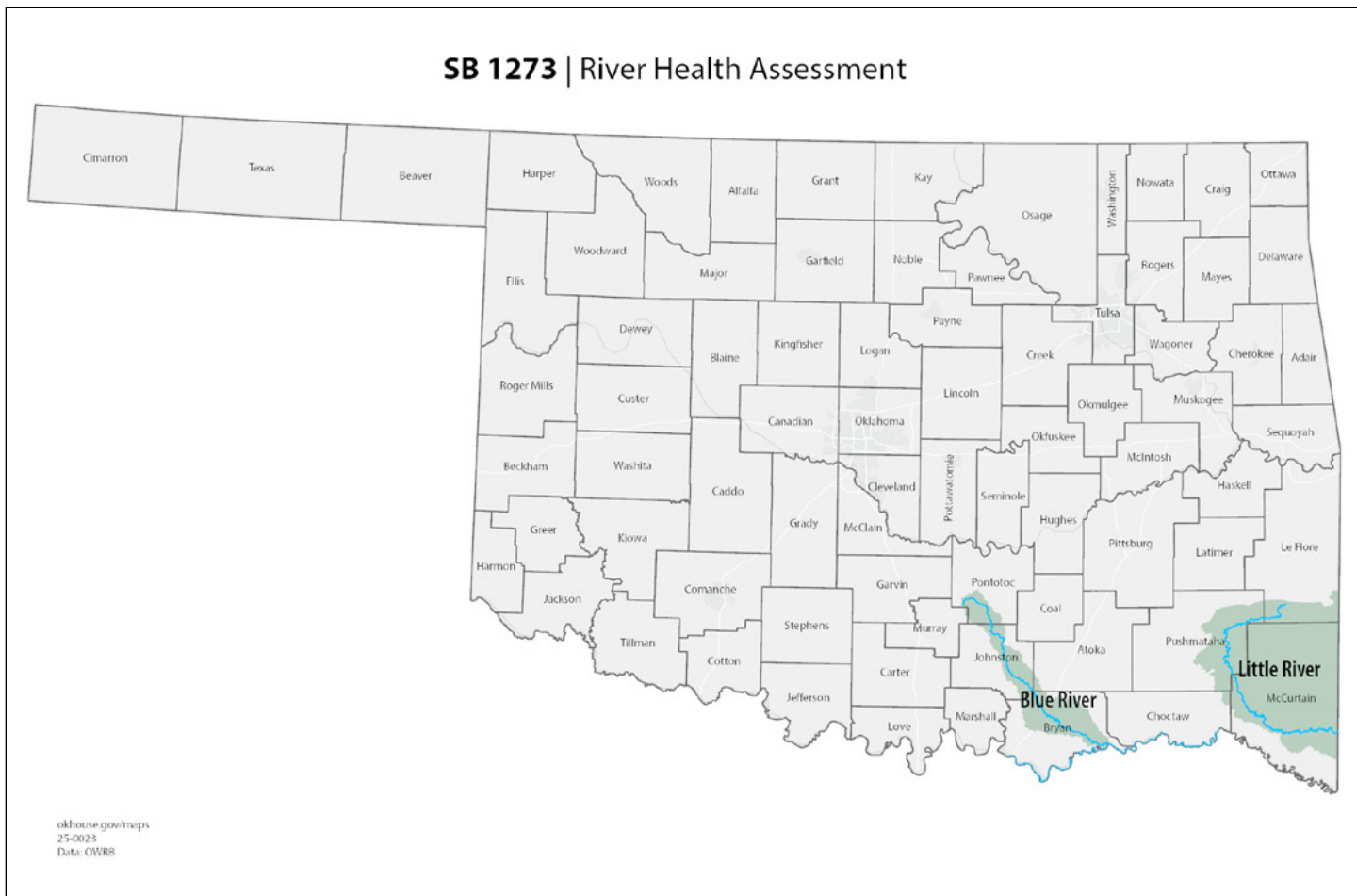
HB 2197 allows the executive director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) to issue a 90-day provisional temporary permit for stream-water and groundwater permit holders. Oil and gas

industry members may renew up to three times, except in a sole-source aquifer.

The measure also allows stream-water permit holders to explain any unused water in a mandatory annual report, which is submitted to OWRB. The measure authorizes the board to excuse the nonuse, rather than requiring the permit holder to forfeit the water. Lastly, the measure empowers the OWRB executive director to order the immediate cessation of

water use when staff determine the use is unauthorized or will cause damage to water users with prior appropriations.

SB 1273 directs DEQ to coordinate with a research university to complete a health assessment study of the Blue River-Little Blue Creek Stream shown in the map below. The measure creates a revolving fund under the management of DEQ for any funds related to the project and further appropriates \$1 million to DEQ. ■





General Government

State Government

SB 1399 creates the Oklahoma Capital Assets Maintenance and Protection (OCAMP) Fund and the five member Oklahoma Capital Assets Management and Protection (OCAMP) Board. The purpose of the OCAMP Board is to develop plans and direct the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority (OCIA) on the utilization of the OCAMP Fund. The OCAMP Board is to develop three different five-year plans that outline how to maintain and repair state-owned properties and buildings for: public institutions of higher learning; state parks operated by the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (OTRD); and all other state-owned properties and buildings. A funding scale for each five-year plan is outlined in the measure.

Additionally, the measure provides that no allocations from the OCAMP Fund are to be made in FY 25. For fiscal years 2026 through 2028 allocations from the fund are not to exceed \$75 million. Beginning FY 29 and every fiscal year after, \$50 million is to be apportioned in the OCAMP Fund.

OCIA must submit an annual report to the Governor and legislative leadership detailing the expenditures, deposits, and investment returns of the OCAMP Fund.

SB 1183 appropriates \$56.25 million from the OCAMP Fund to the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES). These funds must be expended according to a plan submitted by OMES to the chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the House of Representatives Appropriations and Budget Committee by May 31, 2024.

HB 4074 modifies the powers of OCIA to include improving property under its jurisdiction and acquiring, holding, improving, and disposing of property on behalf of other state agencies when a

memorandum of understanding is in place between OCIA and an agency.

SB 1372 creates the Oklahoma Aircraft Engine Testing Development Grant Program and revolving fund. The program is to provide grants to private, public, or nonprofit entities to help expand the aircraft engine testing capabilities of the state and to develop the aircraft engine testing infrastructure. The revolving fund received \$16 million from the general appropriations bill, **SB 1125**.

HB 3623 requires all contractors or subcontractors that enter into a contract with a public employer to submit an affidavit to the State Purchasing Director attesting that they are in compliance with the Status Verification System, which verifies the citizenship status of all new employees. Contractors providing false affidavits are subject to administrative penalties of \$5,000 for the first offense, with subsequent offenses increasing by \$2,000 for each offense, and contract termination.

HB 1010 allows state agencies to purchase equipment and supplies, not to exceed \$2,500, from a local business if the agency is located in a county without a contracted vendor. Agencies do not have to get approval from the State Purchasing Division for purchases, but are required to give the Central Purchasing Director a 72-hour notice before making the purchase. The measure requires agencies to maintain a file on each purchase, which is to include justifications for the purchase and any supporting documents.

HB 3057 eliminates the central purchasing act exemption for IT purchases by the Information Services Division (ISD) of OMES and the Chief Information Officer (CIO). The approval and purchase of all equipment, products, and services by the CIO and ISD will now be subject to the competitive bidding and central purchasing requirements.

HB 4066 creates the Federal Overreach and Extraordinary Litigation Revolving Fund

for the Office of the Attorney General (AG). The AG can use these funds to monitor actions of the federal government that are in violation of the 10th Amendment, administer the State Reserve Powers Protection Unit, or for litigation expenses related to foreign threats, interstate crime, terrorist organizations, gross violations of public trust, and statewide public safety.

HB 3252 transfers the following duties from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC) to other state agencies:

- Administration of the inventor's assistance program, Invest in Oklahoma program, and the qualifications and reporting requirements for the qualified equity investor tax deduction to the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology; and
- Administration of the County Jail Improvement Fund and Rx For Oklahoma Act to the State Department of Health (OSDH).

HB 3597 designates the Secretary of Workforce Development and the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC) as the new coordinator of the Governor's Council on Workforce and Economic Development. OESC is also directed to collaborate with the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education on the Work-based Learning Program. These duties are currently the responsibility of the Secretary of Commerce and ODOC. The measure also removes the department director from council membership.

SB 1310 transfers the administration of the HealthChoice plans and the state life insurance plans from OMES to the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA).

HB 3369 modifies the appeal procedures for state employees regarding insurance issues, which is the responsibility of the Oklahoma Employees Insurance and Benefits Board. Adverse benefits determinations based

on medical judgment, insurer compliance with surprise billing and cost-sharing protections, or a rescission in coverage will be handled externally by an independent review organization. The current three-member grievance panel will handle complaints for all other issues.

HB 3240 requires county assessors to provide the State Data Center with location and address data necessary to complete work with the U.S. Census Bureau upon request.

HB 3113 requires state agency directors to certify that their agency is in compliance with the Oklahoma State Government Open Documents Initiative when they submit their annual agency budgets.

HB 3560 clarifies the name of the financial report that the Director of OMES must prepare each year, which is the annual comprehensive financial report for the state of Oklahoma.

SB 1716 authorizes professional licensing boards to enter into executive session when discussing mental health documents related to a licensee under investigation or review by a professional licensing board. The executive session is limited to discussing documents directly related to the licensee and receiving relevant testimony. Boards must give licensees the opportunity to be present during discussions and must maintain document confidentiality.

SB 519 requires the Commissioners of the Land Office (CLO) to hold an additional hearing beyond the one already required by the Administrative Procedures Act prior to promulgating a newly proposed rule. The commissioners must mail a copy of the hearing notice directly to all current lessees at least 30 days before the hearing date. The commissioners must publish any new interpretation of existing rules in *The Oklahoma Register* within 30 days.

SB 556 finds any notarial officer who fails to make a good faith effort to identify the person signing a document guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of up to \$1,000, 10 days of imprisonment, or both.

SB 1534 allows holders of abandoned property to send electronic notice to the apparent owners if consented to by the owner. The measure also increases the minimum property value that the State Treasurer must publish notice for from \$50 to \$250. Anyone claiming interest in a property worth at least \$10,000, and whose owner is deceased, must provide a copy of the owner's death certificate. The minimum property value for cases where the claimant needs to provide a signed affidavit stating

that they are entitled to the property is increased from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

SB 1705 updates state law regarding alien ownership of land. The measure prohibits foreign government adversaries designated as hostile or a Country of Particular Concern from owning land in the state. Further, the measure authorizes a person's attorney-in-fact, court-appointed guardian or personal representative, authorized officer of the entity, or trustee to execute the affidavit when registering a deed with the county clerk. The measure also replaces references to escheatment proceedings with language describing foreclosure and clarifies when an affidavit is not necessary to record a deed.

SB 1997 requires the owner of a property burdened by a conservation easement to disclose the easement to potential buyers of the property.

SB 1243 repeals a section of law which authorized OCIA to acquire real property for public hunting and fishing areas.

SB 1169 directs the CLO, OCIA, and OMES to contract with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) for security and law enforcement services in all facilities under their jurisdiction.

SB 1514 requires CLO to apply the five-year statute of limitations as found in the Production Revenue Standards Act, with regards to oil and gas leases.

HB 3693 modifies the appointment specifications of the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission. The Governor appoints five members, one from each of the five congressional districts. The remaining four members are at-large, required to be from Oklahoma and experienced in horse racing; two are appointed by the House Speaker and two are appointed by the Senate Pro Tem. In the case of a vacancy, the legislative leaders alternate appointments, beginning with the Speaker. The measure also amends the requirements for expenditures from the Oklahoma Breeding Development Fund Special Account so that, in the case of providing funding for a nonprofit that cares for retired and unwanted Oklahoma-bred race horses, available federal funds must be used, rather than the Horse Racing Commission's special account.

SB 1854 prohibits any person from setting up unauthorized camps on state-owned lands. An *unauthorized camp* is defined in the measure as any tent, shelter, or bedding constructed for overnight sleeping on property not designated as a campsite. Violators are subject to a \$50 fine or up to 15 days in the county jail or both if convicted. A first offense will result in a warning and the arresting officer may not issue a citation unless the violator refuses assistance such as transportation to

a shelter or food pantry, or other available indigent resources.

SB 426 establishes that the World Health Organization, the United Nations, and the World Economic Forum have no jurisdiction in the State of Oklahoma. The measure prohibits the enforcement of any mandates or recommendations by such entities including those that relate to masks, vaccines, medical testing, or gathering any public or private information about Oklahoma residents.

HB 3305 establishes the nine-member Oklahoma Ireland Trade Commission for the purpose of advancing business and other mutually beneficial activities between Oklahoma and Ireland. The commission must report any findings or recommendations to the Governor and legislative leadership within one year of its first meeting and by February 1 each year after.

SB 729 reestablishes the nine-member Oklahoma-Israel Exchange Commission for the purpose of advancing business and other mutually beneficial activities between Oklahoma and Israel. The commission must report any findings or recommendations to the Governor and legislative leadership within one year of its first meeting and by February 1 each year after.

HB 3285 requires a state governmental entity that employs over 500 people or entities that use toll free numbers to implement a telephone call back system. The measure provides that a system in which a caller can request an automatic call back is a sufficient call back system.

HB 3547 changes the reporting period for the AGs report on contracts between agencies or executive branch officials and private attorneys or law firms to a fiscal year instead of a calendar year. The report must include the amount paid under each contract for the fiscal year.

SB 1856 allows a low performance evaluation, conducted within the last 12 months, to be a considering factor for termination during a reduction-in-force. Using a reduction-in-force as a retaliation action is prohibited. The measure repeals a section of law related to voluntary out benefits.

HB 3973 creates the seven-member Task Force on Trust Administration Review and Reform. The purpose of which is to review and make recommendations for changing Oklahoma's trust administration laws to provide an efficient framework for the administration of trusts. The task force is required to submit a report to the Governor

and legislative leadership by November 1 each year that changes are recommended.

SB 1400 requires money in the Risk Management Revolving Fund be invested by the Risk Management Administrator according to the investment provisions in the Oklahoma Employees Insurance and Benefits Act. Any income gained as a result of the investment must be added to the Risk Management Revolving Fund.

HB 3509 updates the official statewide coordinates system by adding the Oklahoma Plane Coordinate System (OKPCS) to the list of coordinate systems used to define geographic positions or point locations. The OKPCS is the most recent coordinate system established by the National Geodetic Survey. The measure also repeals a section of law relating to limitations on recording coordinates.

SB 1200 requires the state of Oklahoma to adopt daylight savings time as the official year-round standard of time for the state if a federal law is passed that authorizes states to adopt daylight savings time year-round.

HB 3460 designates September 17th as Space Day in honor of Oklahoman Thomas P. Stafford.

HB 3430 changes the name of Title 3 of the Oklahoma Statutes from “Aircraft and Airports” to “Aerospace, Aircraft, and Aviation Infrastructure.”

SB 2038 is the annual duplicate sections bill, which conforms the multiple versions of statutes enacted.

County and Municipal Government

SJR 16 sends a constitutional amendment to a vote of the people that, if approved, would create public infrastructure districts. Public infrastructure districts can incur indebtedness and issue bonds to pay for public improvements. A petition containing signatures from all of the property owners within the area must be filed with the municipality before a public infrastructure district can be created.

HB 4091 authorizes the Fire Marshal’s Commission to arbitrate disagreements over fire protection service areas and to determine fire protection service area boundary lines. The Fire Marshal’s Commission must consider response time, financial burden, and service capabilities when making a determination.

HB 3763 allows county officials and fire departments to post burn ban signs on Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Oklahoma Turnpike Authority owned signposts. The locations of the burn ban signs are to be agreed upon by

ODOT and the fire department or county. Installation, removal, and any associated costs are the responsibility of the county or fire department.

SB 1771 allows burn ban signs to be posted in rights-of-way by county commissioners or the board of directors of a fire protection district. The placement of such signs must be coordinated with ODOT. The entity that places the sign must remove it upon expiration of the burn ban.

HB 1967 authorizes any county to levy up to 1 percent sales tax on goods and services in the county to fund emergency medical services with voter approval. Passage of the tax requires approval by a majority of the voters at a special election called by a resolution of the board of county commissioners. Any revenue derived from the sales tax will be apportioned in the same manner as the ad valorem collections for ambulance service districts. Monies received by an ambulance service district will also be subject to an audit by the State Auditor. Counties will also be required to enter into an agreement with any emergency service provider receiving funds and must verify the provider’s licensure and standing with the OSDH.

SB 1617 allows municipalities to amend an existing plat to remove an illegal discriminatory restrictive covenant. Municipalities must give at least 30 days notice to all affected property owners. The notice must include information regarding the location, time, and date of the planning commission meeting. If approved, the amendment must be filed with the county clerk. Additionally, the measure deems all illegal discriminatory restrictive covenants contained in plats in Oklahoma as unlawful, unenforceable, and declared null and void.

SB 1564 amends local government accounting and finance standards by allowing political subdivisions to use a letter of commitment appropriation process for funds received from the state or tribes. Political subdivisions may also establish a special revenue fund for those funds.

HB 2362 establishes procedures for municipalities and public trusts to participate in a biennial agreed-upon-procedure engagement for municipal audits. The procedures must be performed in accordance with standards of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

The procedures required of governing bodies include:

- Verifying cash deposits for the general fund and utility fund were made in the appropriate accounts;
- Establishing policies related to adjustments or write-offs for

receivables due to municipalities and the utility-related trust and testing for adherence to those policies;

- Setting a pay rate for the city manager, city clerk, city treasurer, and payroll clerk and checking for over-compensation;
- Establishing policies for using debit or credit cards and testing for adherence to those policies;
- Selecting a sample of transactions to test for supporting documentation;
- Ensuring bank account balances and bank statements match, preparing a cash basis schedule of changes in fund balances for each fund, and determining if any bank accounts that are not under city council purview exist;
- Comparing uninsured deposits at fiscal year-end to the fair value of pledged collateral and comparing the use of material-restricted revenue and resources to their restrictions; and
- Inquiring if any instances of known fraud, illegal acts, or noncompliance have occurred.

SB 7 authorizes a municipality or public trust to lease a public lake or public land next to a lake without first abandoning or declaring that public land as surplus property. The leased land must be used for amusement, parks, or recreation. A municipality or public trust can enter into contracts with any person, entity, or governmental entity to manage the leased land. The measure also allows a municipality to own, construct, and operate a marina.

HB 3762 allows counties participating in a multi-county library system to request a review of the system’s overall budget and estimate of need if approved by two-thirds vote of all participating boards of county commissioners. The measure designates the executive director or the employee in charge of accounting to produce the requested information.

HB 2872 sets a minimum reimbursement rate for out-of-network ambulance services by a healthcare insurer. This rate is based on the rates approved by the local government where the ambulance service starts. If no local rates are set, the rate will be the lesser of either 325 percent of the current published rate for ambulance services or the ambulance service provider’s billed charges. Additionally, out-of-network

rates cannot be higher than in-network rates.

HB 2986 creates definitions for *cattle crossing signage* and *open pasture road*. Landowners are required to notify their county commissioner when a road bisecting their property meets the definition of an open pasture road. This requirement sunsets on November 1, 2025. However, once designated, a landowner must let county commissioners know every year whether the designation still applies. Commissioners must erect cattle crossing signs on any designated open pasture roads and the landowner will pay for the signage. If motor vehicle damage or occupant injury is caused by livestock on an open pasture road, the property owner and livestock owner are not liable.

Miscellaneous County and Municipal Government

HB 3240 requires county assessor to provide the State Data Center with location and address data necessary to complete work with the U.S. Census Bureau upon request.

HB 3467 allows property that is subject to a partition sale to be sold by a sealed bid auction or public auction in lieu of a sale by the sheriff. The measure outlines criteria for auction procedures and auctioneer qualifications.

HB 3768 allows money in a county's resale property fund to be used to pay for general operating expenses of the county treasurer's office.

SB 5 requires a city-county library commission to meet at least four times a year rather than monthly. The commission is allowed to meet at other times as necessary.

SB 57 increases the size of margins for documents kept on record by the county clerk to two inches on the top margin and one inch for all other margins.

SB 1512 authorizes county commissioners to use county-owned or -leased equipment to conduct county business. The measure clarifies that county-owned or -leased equipment does not include automobiles or pick-up trucks.

SB 1545 authorizes municipal criminal courts of record to close on holidays declared by the governing body of the municipality.

Emergency Management

HB 2912 creates the State Assistance Dedicated for Disaster-impacted Local Economies Revolving Fund. The purpose

of the fund is to provide advanced financial liquidity to governmental subdivisions directly impacted by a Federal Emergency Management Agency-declared (FEMA) emergency or disaster event. Governmental subdivisions must enter into a repayment agreement with the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management to be eligible. Governmental subdivisions are authorized to use these funds for infrastructure repair, temporary housing and shelter, to fund gaps in required matching funds necessary to participate in FEMA programs, and to mitigate revenue losses. A related measure, **HB 2913**, appropriates \$15 million to the State Emergency Fund and \$30 million to the State Assistance Dedicated for Disaster-impacted Local Economies Revolving Fund.

HB 3089 establishes the Strengthen Oklahoma Homes program to provide federally funded grants to construct or retrofit insurable properties to resist damage from tornadoes, windstorms, or hail. The grants are intended to achieve specific safety standards outlined by the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety. A residential property owner is eligible to apply for grants if they have insurable property, reside in an approved county, meet certain home conditions, and own an owner-occupied, single-family residence. Priority is given to low-income applicants and applicants who live in areas more prone to catastrophic weather.

HB 2426 repeals two sections of law related to the Oklahoma 9-1-1 Management Authority Act.

Open Records

HB 3780 removes expired provisions from the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act that allowed public bodies to meet by teleconference during the threat of COVID-19.

HB 3937 removes expired provisions from the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act that allowed public bodies to meet by teleconference during the threat of COVID-19. The measure clarifies that public bodies must post timely meeting information at the principal office of the public body or at the location of the meeting and on their website.

SB 1574 modifies the definition of *record* in the Oklahoma Open Records Act to include applications and other documents related to licensure matters filed in a district court.

HB 3643 removes the requirement that the State Records Administrator approve the destruction of nonrecorded materials and other state agency records that are not regulated by the Records Management Act. The measure also updates numerous references related to records management,

clarifies that records will be stored in a secure location instead of maximum-security vault, and repeals a statute related to microfiling.

HB 3779 requires that anyone wishing to challenge the denial of an open records request notify the public body or official and the AG at least 10 business days before filing a lawsuit. The measure also reclassifies certain non-record information as confidential. It specifies that documents, evidence, materials, or complaints held by the AG or the Insurance Department related to investigations or reviews under the Patient's Right to Pharmacy Choice Act or the Pharmacy Audit Integrity Act are now considered confidential information.

Pensions and Retirement

SB 102 increases the benefit multiplier, employee contribution rates, and employer contribution rates for members of the Oklahoma Police Pension Retirement System. The benefit multiplier is increased from 2.5 percent to 3 percent, whereas the employer and employee contribution rate is increased by 1 percent each to 14 percent and 9 percent, respectively.

Current members under the 2.5 percent benefit structure may also retire with the increased 3 percent multiplier as long they meet a minimum waiting period and/or have a minimum number of credited service years.

- Members with at least 25 years of credited service must wait at least one year after the effective date of the act to retire with the 3 percent multiplier;
- Members with at least 20 years of credited service must wait at least two years after the effective date of the act to retire with the 3 percent multiplier; and
- All other must wait at least five years after the effective date of the act to retire at 3 percent or opt to retire at 2.5 percent without the five year waiting period.

HB 2687 requires new hires that are commissioned or CLEET-certified agents of the AGs office and Oklahoma Military Department to participate in the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System beginning July 1, 2024.

HB 1068 moves all deputy sheriffs and county jailers hired prior to November 1, 2020, to the hazardous duty plan administered by the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) beginning November 1, 2024, and gives these employees until July 1, 2026, to elect

to purchase service credit in the hazardous duty plan at actuarial cost. Former deputy sheriffs or county jailers rehired after November 1, 2024, will also have six months from the date of reemployment to make an election to purchase service credit in the hazardous duty plan at actuarial cost.

HB 1805 designates licensed emergency medical personnel hired on or after November 1, 2023, as hazardous duty members of OPERS. Qualifying emergency medical personnel includes emergency medical responders, technicians, and paramedics working for a participating OPERS employer. Hazardous duty members of OPERS receive increased retirement and pension benefits compared to non-hazardous duty employees and are subject to the following contribution and benefit structure:

- The employee contribution rate is 8 percent of compensation, whereas the employer contribution rate is 16.5 percent;
- Members are eligible to receive full, unreduced retirement benefits after 20 years of service; and
- Benefits are calculated using a 2.5 percent per year multiplier for the first 20 years of service and 2 percent per year multiplier for service in excess of 20 years.

SB 1524 establishes limits on the accrual of service credit in the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System (OFPRS) for volunteer firefighter service. The measure:

- Clarifies that a paid retired firefighter does not accrue service credit for serving as a volunteer firefighter for a volunteer fire department;
- Allows a retired volunteer firefighter with more than 30 years of volunteer firefighter service to perform volunteer firefighter services and continue to receive their volunteer firefighter pension without earning additional service credit;
- Prohibits any firefighter receiving a disability pension from performing volunteer firefighter services; and
- Prohibits a volunteer firefighter from serving as the fire chief.

HB 4051 allows members of OFPRS to purchase up to five years of prior or participating military service credit at actuarial cost. Purchased military service credit will be used to determine the member's retirement benefit but will

not be considered for vesting, retirement eligibility, or participation in the deferred option plan.

HB 3858 increases, from 1.5 percent to 5 percent, the monthly late charge for untimely contributions made by the employer to the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System. The measure also updates references to the required minimum distribution age to conform with federal law.

HB 2982 removes the requirement for spousal consent when a retired judge or state employee selects the joint and survivor annuity option for their retirement benefit from the Uniform Justices and Judges Retirement System or OPERS.

HB 2528 updates Oklahoma Teacher Retirement System (OTRS) definitions, statutory references, and procedures used to administer retirement benefits for members of OTRS. The measure also repeals a section of law related to unclassified positions within OTRS.

HB 2991 is an IRS compliance measure for the firefighters' pension system, updating references to the required minimum distribution age.

Public Finance

SB 1125 is the general appropriations bill, providing for \$12.47 billion in spending for FY 2025. A detailed overview can be found on the budget portal linked [here](#).

\$345.5 million worth of capital projects were approved for self-financing through the Legacy Capital Financing Fund (LCF) this session, including:

HB 2891, which authorizes \$80 million to construct, refurbish, or expand facilities for chemistry, biosciences, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics degrees at the University of Oklahoma (OU).

HB 2892, which authorizes \$80 million to construct, refurbish, or expand engineering facilities at OU.

HB 2893, which authorizes \$80 million to construct, refurbish, or expand life science facilities at Oklahoma State University (OSU).

HB 2894, which authorizes \$30 million to construct or expand OSU Medical Authority facilities.

HB 2895, which authorizes \$27.5 million to construct, refurbish, or expand the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations headquarters and related facilities.

HB 2896, which authorizes \$74 million for DPS to construct a centralized training center and related facilities.

HB 4012, which authorizes \$4.3 million to build the State Capitol Arch, which will honor services performed by the Oklahoma National Guard.

HB 2915 authorizes OCIA to obligate \$500 million to ODOT to be used to maintain and improve certain highway and bridge projects. Those projects include the:

- Bridge on Highway 70 over Lake Texoma;
- U.S. Highway 81 realignment in Grady County; and
- Interstate 35 in Cleveland, McLain, Garvin, Murray, Carter, and Love counties.

HB 2928 outlines spending limits for funds appropriated to ODOC for FY 2025:

- \$229,945 to support the Community Expansion of Nutrition Assistance Program;
- \$150,000 to the various Councils of Government to support substate planning;
- \$36,221 to support the function of community action agencies;
- \$183,874 for Head Start programs;
- \$64,217 for the Rx for Oklahoma Prescription Assistance program;
- \$850,000 to support Small Business Development Centers; and
- \$10 million to fund a new STEM building at Rogers State University.

HB 2925 redirects funds previously allocated to the AG in FY 2023 to be used for the following purposes:

- \$4,550,000 million to the Victims of Human Trafficking and Prevention Revolving Fund; and
- \$7,896,567 to the Federal Overreach and Extraordinary Litigation Fund.

HB 2897 credits all interest and income derived from deposits to LCF to the LCF.

HB 2937 directs the following appropriations from the Statewide Recovery Fund:

- \$50 million to the Pandemic Relief Primary Source Revolving Fund;
- \$10 million in interest funds to the Pandemic Relief Primary Source Revolving Fund; and
- \$10 million to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) to establish a grant program and

to match tribal investment in rural water infrastructure projects.

The measure also creates a Statewide Recovery Special Account for the OWRB and authorizes the OWRB to perform administrative tasks such as enter into contracts, promulgate rules, and enter into MOUs to implement the grant program.

HB 2939 appropriates \$2,049,068 to OMES from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Administrative Costs Fund to pay for expenses related to implementing programs recommended by the Joint Committee on Pandemic Relief Funding.

HB 2938 appropriates \$248,000 to the Legislative Services Bureau to pay for ARPA contracts for FY 25.

HB 2936 directs that any funds remaining in the ARPA Administrative Costs Fund as of July 1, 2024, will be considered obligated funds to pay for future administrative costs related to any project that was appropriated from statewide recovery funds.

HB 2889 appropriates \$20 million from the Progressing Rural Economic Prosperity (PREP) Fund to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for water system improvements in between State Highway 94 and 95 in Texas County.

HB 2890 appropriates \$50 million from the Progressing Rural Economic Prosperity (PREP) fund to DEQ for upgrades to the levees along the Arkansas River and tributaries in northeast Oklahoma. The appropriation allows the state to be eligible for federal matching funds.

HB 2927 outlines the spending limits for the FY 2025 appropriations to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry:

- \$6 million for capital and equipment needs for the OSU Robert M. Kerr Food and Agriculture Products Center;
- \$1 million operational expenses for the OSU Robert M. Kerr Food and Agriculture Products Center;
- \$4.2 million for the OSU Agriculture Extension Service offices;
- \$1.3 million for the OSU Agriculture Experiment Stations;
- \$2.5 million for the cooperation extension and agriculture research programs at Langston University;
- \$9.5 million for the Oklahoma FFA Association, of which \$5 million will be used for renovations to make the camp operational. The camp operator will be required to

submit an expenditure report the Legislature and Governor; and

- \$6,891,070 for rural fire departments to replace equipment and gear.

SB 1159 sets the \$8.5 million budget limit for the Public Utility Division of the Corporation Commission for FY 2025.

HB 2924 transfers \$25,790,651 from the State Treasury's Opioid Lawsuit Settlement Fund to the Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Revolving Fund under the AG. \$20 million will be spent for budgeting and lawful expenditure and \$5,790,651 will be distributed to non-litigating subdivisions.

SB 1137 directs the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) to use \$3 million for Home- and Community-Based Services Waivers and to deposit \$5.6 million into the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Account. DHS must use an adequate amount of funds for specified increases of provider rates for various programs and maintain the same funding for senior nutrition programs as the prior fiscal year. Lastly, the measure appropriates all federal monies received by the state to fund the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant and the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

SB 1192 transfers \$8,085,454 from ODOC to DHS to provide additional funding for a grant program that supports food programs, ensuring the availability and access to affordable and nutritious foods.

SB 1155 creates the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture Supplemental Revolving Fund. The measure directs that \$18 million be appropriated to the fund for the repair, maintenance, and construction of the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture provided that the State Treasury determines that the funds are available to be disbursed. The full \$18 million must be available by November 15, 2025, otherwise all collected fund amounts will be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

SB 1134 directs OHCA to utilize \$30 million of appropriated funds to increase reimbursements to long-term and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

HB 2929 directs the use of certain funds appropriated to the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Those funds include:

- \$3,948,760 for annualizing the state portion of Medicaid rates;
- \$18,500,000 for the continuum of care for children in crisis;

- \$4,100,000 for implementation of potential consent decrees entered during the 2024 calendar year; and
- \$500,000 to maintain five pilot programs that provide medication-assisted treatment for opioid and alcohol dependence to offenders in county jails and upon release.

SB 1156 stipulates that none of the funds appropriated to the OSU Veterinary Medicine Authority in the general appropriations bill can be used for equipment, personnel, or operations of the Oklahoma Pandemic Center for Innovation and Excellence.

SB 1399 creates the Oklahoma Capital Assets Maintenance and Protection (OCAMP) Fund and the five member Oklahoma Capital Assets Management and Protection (OCAMP) Board. The purpose of the OCAMP Board is to develop plans and direct the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority (OCIA) on the utilization of the OCAMP Fund. The OCAMP Board is to develop three different five-year plans that outline how to maintain and repair state-owned properties and buildings for: public institutions of higher learning; state parks operated by the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (OTRD); and all other state-owned properties and buildings. A funding scale for each five-year plan is outlined in the measure.

Additionally, the measure provides that no allocations from the OCAMP Fund are to be made in FY 25. For fiscal years 2026 through 2028 allocations from the fund are not to exceed \$75 million. Beginning FY 29 and every fiscal year after, \$50 million is to be apportioned in the OCAMP Fund.

OCIA must submit an annual report to the Governor and legislative leadership detailing the expenditures, deposits, and investment returns of the OCAMP Fund.

SB 1183 appropriates \$56.25 million from the OCAMP Fund to OMES. These funds must be expended according to a plan submitted by OMES to the chairs of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the House of Representatives Appropriations and Budget Committee by May 31, 2024.

SB 1372 creates the Oklahoma Aircraft Engine Testing Development Grant Program and revolving fund. The program is to provide grants to private, public, or nonprofit entities to help expand the aircraft engine testing capabilities of the state and to develop the aircraft engine testing infrastructure. The revolving fund received \$16 million from the general appropriations bill, **SB 1125**.

SB 1184 appropriates \$12.5 million to OTRD from the OCAMP Fund and requires the funds be used on state park properties

in accordance with the plan submitted to the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriation and Budget chairs.

Administrative Rules

The Legislature extended the sunset date of the boards and commissions listed in the table on the next page.

SB 1235 eliminates the sunset dates for the Advisory Committee on Pedorthics and the Advisory Committee on Orthotics and Prosthetics making them permanent entities no longer subject to the states sunset laws.

HB 1297 requires the Secretary of State to electronically publish the Oklahoma Administrative Code and *The Oklahoma Register* with an option to additionally print both at the lowest possible cost. In case of any discrepancies between the electronic and printed forms, the electronic form will

prevail unless an error is found in the electronic version.

Tourism

SB 1155 creates the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture Supplemental Revolving Fund. The measure directs that \$18 million be appropriated to the fund for the repair, maintenance, and construction of the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture provided that the State Treasure determines that the funds are available to be disbursed. The full \$18 million must be available by November 15, 2025, otherwise all collected fund amounts will be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

SB 1184 appropriates \$12.5 million to OTRD from the OCAMP Fund and requires the funds be used on state park properties in accordance with the plan submitted to the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriation and Budget chairs.

HB 2965 allows horse races that are held at racetracks licensed by the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission to be televised out-of-state, out-of-country, or to other racetracks licensed by the commission. The measure also allows an organization licensee to move the starting gates during a trail heat or stakes races if they are using a device that ensures the gates are set in the same position and is approved by the horsemen's representative and the stewards.

State Powers

SB 404 updates the Oklahoma Religious Freedom Act by declaring that the act of excluding any person or entity from participation in or receipt of governmental funds, benefits, programs, or exemptions based solely on the religious character or affiliation of the person or entity will be considered a substantial burden. ■

Measure	Entity	New Sunset Date
HB 2955	Oklahoma Real Estate Commission	7/1/2027
HB 2956	Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision	7/1/2025
HB 2957	State Capitol Preservation Commission	7/1/2027
HB 2958	State Board of Osteopathic Examiners	7/1/2027
SB 60	Board of Chiropractic Examiners	7/1/2026
SB 1230	Oklahoma State Athletic Commission	7/1/2027
SB 1231	Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners	7/1/2027
SB 1232	Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology	7/1/2027
SB 1234	State Board of Examiners of Perfusionists	7/1/2027



Health & Human Services

Public Health

HB 1449 establishes the Women's Bill of Rights, defining terms such as, *father*, *mother*, *male*, *natural person*, and specifies that *sex* means biological sex at birth. It requires sex discrimination policies to ensure fair treatment of males and females. The measure allows distinctions between sexes if related to important government objectives, clarifies that equal does not mean identical, and permits political subdivisions, including schools, to include a person's sex in data collection.

SB 1675 extends the deadline for OHCA to implement capitated contract provisions from October 1, 2023, to April 1, 2024. It requires contracted entities to complete provider credentialing within 60 days of application receipt and respond to service requests for hospitalized members within 24 hours. Peer-to-peer conversations after adverse determinations must also occur within 24 hours. The measure limits post-payment audits to 3 percent of claims, includes downgraded claims in denial provisions, and extends minimum reimbursement rates from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2027. Additionally, at least one statewide Medicaid contract must go to a provider-owned entity that meets proposal requirements.

HB 3449 establishes the University Hospitals Authority Behavioral Health Workforce Development Fund. The monies within this fund are allocated to implement a pilot program at behavioral health facilities aimed at supporting behavioral health workforce development and facilitating access to behavioral health professionals.

SB 1709 transfers the Office of Client Advocacy within DHS to the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH). The measure also transfers the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman within DHS to the AG.

HB 2330 repeals the Psychiatric and Chemical Dependency Facility Certificate of

Need Act to address concerns surrounding the process of establishing psychiatric and chemical dependency facilities.

SB 1319 establishes the Public School Vision Screening Modernization Revolving Fund to provide grants for vision screening equipment, data collection, and related services in public schools. The measure allows electronic eye charts for in-school screenings, requires a cloud-based data management system, and directs the State Department of Education to share vision screening results with OSDH.

HB 3190 requires utilization review entities to make their prior authorization requirements, including clinical criteria, easily accessible on their websites for both enrollees and healthcare providers. Utilization review entities must make prior authorization or adverse determinations within specified timeframes, depending on the urgency of the healthcare service. Any changes to these requirements must be communicated clearly and in advance. All adverse determinations and appeals must be made under the clinical direction of a medical director by a physician or licensed mental health professional who possesses appropriate credentials and training.

The measure prohibits prior authorization requirements for emergency healthcare services and pre-hospital transportation. It also mandates coverage for emergency services in accordance with existing laws. Prior authorizations for chronic conditions must remain valid for a certain period, with provisions for continued authorization if necessary. Procedures are outlined for continued authorization of inpatient care for chronic conditions beyond initially approved periods, including provisions for appeals and compensation. Utilization review entities must honor prior authorizations from previous entities for a specified period when an enrollee changes health plans or products within the same company.

Beginning January 1, 2027, health benefit plans must implement and maintain a Prior Authorization Application Programming

Interface (API) for electronic processing of prior authorizations. Healthcare providers must have compatible electronic systems by July 1, 2027.

HB 3781 establishes Oklahoma's participation in the Physician Assistants (PA) Licensure Compact, which is an interstate professional licensing compact that allows PAs to practice in other states without requiring additional state licensure. States joining the compact agree to recognize a valid, unencumbered license issued by another compact member state via a compact privilege. Licensed PAs utilizing the compact can obtain a privilege in each compact member state where they want to practice. PAs using a compact privilege to practice in another state must adhere to laws and regulations in that state and are under the jurisdiction of the state's regulatory board in which they are practicing.

HB 3199 adds PAs and advanced practice registered nurses to the definition of *healthcare professional* as it pertains to peer review information.

HB 1696 expands the Oklahoma Medical Loan Repayment Program to include certified nurse practitioners. The measure also expands the definition of *primary care physicians* to include physicians practicing general surgery.

HB 3328 requires a national criminal history background check for the following:

- Registered Nurse (RN) license;
- Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) license;
- Practical Nurse (LPN) license;
- Multistate nursing license when Oklahoma is the primary state of residence;
- Advanced Unlicensed Assistant Certificate; and
- License reinstatement.

SB 1491 permits healthcare providers to prescribe antimicrobial drugs to the partner of a patient diagnosed with sexually transmitted infections (STIs) if the patient's partner is unlikely or unable to seek treatment. The treatment must also include counseling for the patient and documentation notifying the patient of the risk of untreated STIs, warning for pregnant women taking antimicrobial drugs, and the general information of the prescribed antimicrobial. The measure also replaces the term *physician* with *healthcare provider* as it relates to reporting and treatment of venereal diseases.

HB 3451 expands upon the definition of *person requiring treatment* to include an individual who is in a condition of severe deterioration that is continuing, as has been observed within the previous 72-hour period, who, without immediate intervention, poses a risk of harm to one's self. The measure authorizes a person's verifiable relevant past history to be considered and possibly used as part of the evidence to determine whether the person is a person requiring treatment.

HB 4152 requires mammography exam reports to include information identifying the patient's individual breast density classification as dense or not dense. If a patient has heterogeneously or extremely dense breast tissue, the summary must also include a notice informing the patient about the implications of breast density on cancer detection and risk, advising them to discuss these matters with their healthcare provider. The measure stipulates the exact wording of the notice.

HB 1712 prohibits health insurers from refusing coverage for durable medical equipment and supplies regardless of whether the provider is in-network or out-of-network unless there is an Oklahoma licensed in-network provider within 15 miles of the patient's home.

HB 1713 allows providers and healthcare facilities to dispense and administer a covered physician-administered drug that is in the patient's best interest. The healthcare facility and provider are prohibited from billing or collecting from the patient any amount in excess of the health insurer's negotiated contracted rate.

SB 538 amends parts of the Choosing Childbirth Act. The measure amends the definition of *grant-supervising entity* to mean a private entity which approves all grants not directly made to private organizations by OSDH for reimbursement of services. OSDH will make grants from appropriated funds for reimbursing private organizations for listed services. The department must make grants both directly to the private organization and to one or more grant supervising entities.

The measure adds obstetric ultrasounds, mental health and substance abuse services, and transportation assistance to the list of reimbursable services. The measure also provides that reimbursable services include providing services up to three years postpartum for reducing the infant and maternal mortality rates in the state by 3 percent not later than July 1, 2026. To be eligible for a service grant, an organization must have the grant approved by the grant-supervising entity or by the department. OSDH will annually monitor and review any grant-supervising entity or private organization receiving a grant from the department. The department will cease funding if the grant-supervising entity or private organization fails to adhere to such purposes and requirements.

SB 1135 establishes the Choosing Childbirth Revolving Fund to be managed by OSDH to fund services relating to the Choosing Childbirth Act.

HB 2152 reduces the membership of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee from 25 to 11 members. Additionally, the measure requires an investigation of maternal deaths that occur during pregnancy or within one year of termination of pregnancy. Hospitals and birthing centers must report such deaths to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner within 72 hours of occurrence. The measure authorizes the examiner to share records, documents, evidence, or other material of any nature with the Maternal Mortality Review Committee.

SB 1739 no longer requires OSDH to license birthing centers after November 1, 2024. Hospitals operating existing birthing centers must continue to obtain all appropriate licenses. The measure clarifies that insurers must continue to provide coverage for postpartum care at a free-standing birthing center not licensed as a hospital. Additionally, the measure requires that services performed at birthing centers be performed by either a certified professional midwife, a certified midwife, a licensed allopathic or osteopathic physician, or a licensed Advanced Practice Registered Nurse recognized as a certified nurse-midwife.

SB 597 provides that the graduates of foreign medical schools recognized by the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision (OSBMLS) qualify to serve as members on the board. Additionally, the measure authorizes retired physicians to serve on the board and removes the prohibition of a member of the board from serving while employed at or on the board of trustees of a medical school.

The measure requires that all information related to disciplinary investigations of professional licensees under the jurisdiction

of the board be kept confidential and privileged. Such information is not subject to subpoena, discovery in any civil or criminal proceedings, or the Oklahoma Open Records Act unless it is admitted into administrative proceedings. Lastly, the measure establishes the Anesthesiologist Assistants Advisory Committee and outlines its membership.

HB 3035 exempts OSBMLS from the requirement to hold a meeting to determine the qualifications of applicants for certificates or licenses under the board's jurisdiction. The measure stipulates that during the OSBMLS investigations, at least one investigator must be a certified peace officer. Investigators are authorized to inspect personnel records to determine if any disciplinary actions for unprofessional conduct are needed or if any narcotic and dangerous drug laws were violated. The measure also removes the requirement for the executive director to immediately suspend the license of any person who has defaulted from the Allied Professional Peer Assistance Program.

HB 2998 establishes regulations for laser hair removal facilities, including the use of FDA-approved devices and requiring facilities be overseen by a physician unless staffed by an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse. The measure also provides guidelines for the training of laser practitioners to include at least 40 hours of didactic, in-person hands-on, and performance training. Finally, the measure stipulates that healing arts professionals who are duly licensed under any other act are not prohibited from engaging in the practice of laser hair removal.

HB 3556 makes it optional for state healthcare providers, as defined by the OHCA Board, to report data to and use the state-designated entity for health information exchange.

SB 1703 prohibits insurers and third-party administrators, other than a Medicare Advantage plan, from denying OHCA claims solely because a claimed item or service did not receive prior authorization under the rules or coverage policies of the insurer. The measure requires the insurer or third-party administrator to accept an authorization provided by the authority for an item or service covered under the state Medicaid program or under a home and community-based services waiver. Additionally, the measure requires insurers and third-party administrators to respond within 60 days of receiving an inquiry regarding a claim if the claimed item occurred within the last three years.

HB 3238 designates OHCA as the state agency responsible for administering the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) program agreements. The

measure exempts the PACE program from licensure under the Adult Daycare Act and the Home Care Act.

SB 1716 authorizes professional licensing boards to enter into executive session when discussing mental health documents related to a licensee under investigation or review by a professional licensing board. The executive session is limited to discussing documents directly related to the licensee and receiving relevant testimony. Boards must give licensees the opportunity to be present during discussions and must maintain document confidentiality.

SB 1708 increases the membership of the Advancement of Wellness Advisory Council from seven to 10 members. The three newly appointed members must be knowledgeable about cardiometabolic disease, be a representative of an Urban Indian Health Center, and be a representative of a federally recognize tribe, respectively.

SB 1929 modifies several guidelines relating to the licensing and practice of dentistry. The measure:

- Permits licensed dental hygienists to perform therapeutic laser procedures after two years of practice, provided they were licensed before January 30, 2024;
- Allows out-of-state dentists with an active license in good standing in another state to obtain a license to participate in a continuing education class that includes live patient treatment;
- Establishes the elder care and public health advanced procedures program and separates the duty permits for phlebotomy and venipuncture into two distinct permits;
- Modifies the definition of *accredited dental assisting program or class* to allow any class approved by the Board of Dentistry to qualify towards the program;
- Expands the special volunteer license issued to certain hygienists to include those on active duty for the duration of their tour of duty;
- Exempts active-duty hygienists and dentists from continuing education requirements under certain conditions;
- Requires dentists to report any instance of a licensee practicing while impaired or in a state of physical or mental health that poses a threat to patient care within 72 hours. Reporting dentists are

immune from civil or criminal liability for such reports;

- Allows licensees to petition the board to reopen and withdraw an order after seven years from its issuance in certain circumstances;
- Assigns a panel to review and investigate the issues causing the order, changes to the law, and actions taken by the licensee to improve their abilities, patient outcomes, and service to the community; and
- Allows the panel and president to dismiss the case if they determine it is inappropriate to bring it before the board.

HB 1345 authorizes the Oklahoma State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to enter into reciprocity agreements with other states if their license requirements are similar to the requirements in the Psychologists Licensing Act.

HB 1382 exempts post-adjudication review boards from the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act and the definition of a *public body*. The measure also requires the annual report submitted by the State Post Adjudication Review Advisory Board to include the location, names of members, number of cases reviewed, and recommendation categories of each review board.

HB 3330 requires mental health professionals applying for or renewing licenses from the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, State Board of Behavioral Health Licensure, the Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Social Workers, or the Oklahoma Board of Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors to provide the following information:

- Demographic information or any changes to demographic information;
- Educational and training background;
- Internship information;
- Workforce retention information;
- Workforce practice trends; and
- Other mental health certifications or licenses.

De-identified annual licensure and certification data must be sent to the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS). The department must compile the information into an annual report to be submitted to legislative leadership.

HB 3428 eliminates the requirement for a \$100,000 surety bond for all body piercing and tattoo operators. The measure also

requires tattoo and body piercing operators seeking a new license to publish their application notice once in the nearest circulating newspaper.

HB 4035 establishes regulations for public pools and spas and tasks OSDH with regulating these facilities. The State Commissioner of Health is authorized to create rules ensuring safety and sanitation, set fees, and define penalties for non-compliance. The measure sets the cost for construction permit applications and operation license applications at no more than \$50 for municipalities with a population of 5,000 or less. The measure also requires public pool owners to apply for construction permits via a form designated by OSDH, base designs on the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code, possess an annual license, and allow department inspections. Pools found non-compliant during three consecutive inspections are to be considered a public nuisance and closed. Costs associated with the closure may be charged to the owner's taxes. Closed pools must go through the licensure or construction permit process before reopening to the public. The measure excludes splash pads, private pools, pools run by a Homeowner's Association, or public spas. The measure also repeals sections of law related to the Whitney Starks Act.

SB 707 extends the reporting window for death certificates to be filed with OSDH from three to 10 calendar days following a person's death. The measure also clarifies the process for completing and filing a death certificate. The measure provides that a funeral director is responsible for obtaining personal data from the next of kin or the most qualified available source and entering it onto the death certificate in the State Registrar of Vital Statistics' electronic system. The funeral director has 24 hours from the time of death to send the partially completed death certificate to the designated medical professionals responsible for the medical certification portion of the death certificate. The designated medical professional must complete the medical certification portion of the death certificate within five calendar days from receipt and then return it to the funeral director. The funeral director then has four calendar days to conduct a final review of the personal data and medical certification, electronically sign the death certificate, and submit it to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics.

The measure protects designated medical professionals from civil liability for any acts or omissions related to the medical certification if the cause of death is determined in good faith using their best clinical judgment. Additionally, if the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner declines to perform an autopsy, it must

inform the person legally entitled to the deceased's body through written or electronic notice before or upon releasing the body. The measure also provides that death investigations be completed within 60 calendar days after the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner assumes custody of the body and that the final certification of death must be signed by the chief medical examiner or their designee immediately upon conclusion.

HB 3041 exempts OSDH from reporting stem cell research if none was conducted that year.

HB 3600 eliminates the Oklahoma Health Research Committee.

SB 1344 requires collaboration among ODMHSAS, OSDH, and OHCA to secure funding for educational and healthcare services centered around nonopioid alternatives. Additionally, these agencies are tasked with aiding political subdivisions that receive grants under the Political Subdivisions Opioid Abatement Grants Act. The measure also prohibits OHCA and its contracted entities from denying coverage of nonopioid drugs in favor of opioids. The measure does not prevent certain opioids and nonopioids from being preferred over others.

HB 2929 directs the use of certain funds appropriated to ODMHSAS. Those funds include:

- \$3,948,760 for annualizing the state portion of Medicaid rates;
- \$18,500,000 for the continuum of care for children in crisis;
- \$4,100,000 for implementation of potential consent decrees entered during the 2024 calendar year; and
- \$500,000 to maintain five pilot programs that provide medication-assisted treatment for opioid and alcohol dependence to offenders in county jails and upon release.

SB 1862 establishes that an individual who self-presents at a mental health facility, is placed in protective custody, and is in need of transportation for additional treatment must be transported by either ODMHSAS or an entity contracted with the department.

SB 1943 requires individuals who manufacture, distribute, or prescribe controlled dangerous substances or use them for scientific purposes to register with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control annually. This includes qualifying out-of-state pharmaceutical suppliers and persons who own a public or private qualifying medical facility. Registrants are obligated to disclose all beneficial owners of their

entity. Publicly traded entities are exempt from this disclosure requirement so long as the entity discloses all beneficial owners who exercise authority or control over controlled dangerous substances at each registered location.

The measure removes the provision imposing double registration fees for late renewals exceeding 30 days and eliminates the \$10 fee for duplicate registration certificates. Additionally, renewal applications will open annually on July 1 and must be submitted by September 1. Registrations not renewed by the end of the calendar year they were issued will become ineligible for renewal and require a new registration. The director may waive the requirement for a new registration if notice is given before expiration. New applications with significant changes from the original registration will not be regarded as a transfer of an ongoing activity.

SB 1296 decreases the membership of the Opioid Overdose Fatality Review Board from 22 to 20 members and allows the board to meet at the chair's discretion. The measure also establishes that 10 members are needed for a quorum and that a majority of the quorum is sufficient for the board to take action by vote.

SB 1740 establishes that first responders, medical personnel, and family members cannot be held liable for civil damages, barring cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct, in administering emergency opioid antagonists. Medical providers are also granted the same protections for prescribing an opioid antagonist.

HB 3376 authorizes the AG to promulgate rules for the Patient's Right to Pharmacy Choice Act, the Pharmacy Audit Integrity Act, and licensing requirements for Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs). The AG is authorized to subpoena witnesses and records during an investigation of a complaint from any relevant entity to ensure compliance with the aforementioned laws. Protected health information (PHI) held by PBMs must be provided to the AG upon request to conduct investigations. Unauthorized disclosure of PHI obtained during an investigation is strictly prohibited and subject to legal penalties. Furthermore, if the AG finds that a PBM has not fully cooperated with an investigation or inquiry related to compliance with relevant laws, they may instruct the Insurance Commissioner to censure the PBM or suspend or revoke their license. Additionally, the AG can impose civil or administrative fines ranging from \$100 to \$10,000 for each violation, with each day of non-compliance constituting a separate violation.

Lastly, the measure establishes the AGs Pharmacy Benefits Manager Enforcement

Revolving Fund to support the AG in its enforcement activities. The measure repeals sections of law related to Patient's Right to Pharmacy Choice Act complaints.

SB 1670 modifies audit requirements under the provisions of the Pharmacy Audit Integrity Act. Audits initiated based on or involving fraud, willful misrepresentation, or abuse must be clearly declared as such, with supporting evidence provided. The measure prioritizes reimbursing the patient when funds are recovered through an audit of a pharmacy.

The entities conducting such audits must notify the AG at least two calendar days beforehand, provide preliminary and final reports, and grant unrestricted access to relevant documents. The AG is authorized to instruct the Insurance Commissioner to take disciplinary actions against pharmacy benefits managers (PBMs) for deceptive practices or law violations. Penalties include license censure, suspension, revocation, and administrative fines for each offense. The AG may also levy civil or administrative fines ranging from \$100 to \$10,000 per violation, with additional penalties for investigation non-compliance. The AG is authorized to promulgate rules implementing the act.

An audit will be considered null and void if the entity conducting the audit fails to follow any of the requirements outlined in the act. Any funds recovered from audits deemed null and void must be returned to affected pharmacies within 14 calendar days.

HB 1979 establishes regulations for prepaid vision plans and their interactions with vision care providers. It prohibits agreements between insurers or prepaid vision plans and providers from setting fees for non-covered services, ensuring that reimbursements for covered services are reasonable and communicated to providers. It prevents these plans from requiring providers to use specific suppliers. The measure also adds prepaid vision plan organizations and insurers to the definition of a *person* in the insurance code as it relates to unfair practices and fraud.

HB 3351 establishes a tax credit for allopathic physicians, osteopathic physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, and PAs who train students in the same field. The tax credit is available from 2026 to 2035 and allows the medical professional to claim credits for up to 10 training rotations per calendar year. The credit amounts vary depending on the type of rotation. The Health Care Workforce Training Commission is responsible for awarding the credits. Funds for the tax credits are generated from reserved portions of licensure fees. Additionally,

the measure establishes revolving funds for each type of faculty preceptor.

SB 1191 directs the director of OMES to transfer \$300,000 from ODOC to the University Hospitals Authority to enhance dental services for indigent patients.

SB 1752 allows the use of self-funded or self-insured healthcare plans to participate in the Insure Oklahoma premium assistance program. The measure requires self-funded or self-insured healthcare plans to be in compliance with all relevant federal laws, levy a monthly premium on members, maintain a provider reimbursement rate schedule, meet actuarial standards set by OHCA, and cover all essential health benefits and be recognized by the Insurance Department.

SB 1516 increases the fee range for a cremation permit from \$100-\$200 to \$200-\$275. The measure also clarifies language regarding the out-of-state transport permit for human remains.

Children, Youth, and Family Services

SB 696 reduces from 19 to 18 the number of Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) members and allows persons filling a vacant term on the commission to be eligible for four additional two-year terms after the completion of the vacant term. OCCY must provide an attendance report to appointing authorities after each meeting. The measure also requires the director of OCCY to prepare an annual report summarizing OCCY activities for the previous fiscal year and removes the requirement for the director to prepare the State Plan for Services to Children and Youth.

The measure modifies the duties of the Office of Planning and Coordination for Services to Children and Youth by deleting numerous requirements and adding the requirement to make recommendations for the development and improvement of services provided to children and youth and those at risk of homelessness in the State Plan. On or before July 1, 2024, and each third year thereafter, a copy of the three-year State Plan must be transmitted to the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES), directors of certain agencies, the Governor, and legislative leadership.

The measure also specifies that the Parent Partnership Board will assist the commission and their respective entities in the process of developing and awarding grants and other activities upon request. OCCY is no longer required to use up to 10 percent of the funds in the Children's

Endowment Fund of Oklahoma to provide administration, oversight, training, or evaluation to grantees or the Parent Partnership Board. Funds deposited in the Children's Endowment Fund must only be used as provided in statute.

Additionally, the measure makes modifications to certain boards. Those modifications include:

- Increasing from three to five years the membership terms of the postadjudication review board, removing the requirement for the members to attend the annual meeting and training programs and removing other specific duties;
- Requiring the State Postadjudication Review Advisory Board to review and make recommendations on cases specifically related to foster care and permanency planning and any other aspect of the child welfare system deemed necessary; and
- Eliminating the community partnership board.
- Lastly, the measure repeals sections related to Services to Children and Youth.

SB 1601 establishes the Uniform Unregulated Child Custody Transfer Act to regulate child custody transfers. Indian child custody governed by federal law is exempt from the act. The measure prohibits unregulated custody transfers with the intent to abandon rights and responsibilities unless certain legal procedures are followed, such as transferring custody through adoption or guardianship, obtaining a judicial custody award, placing the child through a child-placing agency, or seeking other judicial or tribal action. The Department of Human Services (DHS) is authorized to intervene in suspected violations. Solicitations and advertisements related to unlawful transfers are prohibited, and violators are guilty of a misdemeanor.

SB 1701 creates the Oklahoma Standby Guardianship Act, which establishes a legal framework for the designation and approval of standby guardians for minor children. The measure outlines the circumstances under which a standby guardian may assume custody responsibilities. Parents can voluntarily designate a standby guardian through a written document, with the guardian's authority commencing upon the approval of a filed petition. The measure also details procedures for the court's approval, revocation, and review of standby guardians.

SB 1756 requires the court to make a written determination of the fitness of a

third-party volunteer who is to observe and oversee visitation in child custody cases. The court must review certain information including a national criminal history record check, a sworn affidavit from the volunteer accepting the rules of supervision, and any testimony by the potential volunteer or other witness testimony deemed necessary by the court before determining the fitness of the volunteer. Any protocol for supervised visitation established by a court must require the volunteer be able to see and hear all interactions between the supervised parent and the child. Additionally, if the court determines the supervised parent is exhibiting suicidal or violent behavior, it may require all supervised visitation to occur in a professional setting unless the supervised parent has submitted a non-self-reporting psychological evaluation to the court.

Lastly, the measure establishes that the court must take into consideration whether any person seeking custody, guardianship, or visitation of a child has had custody, guardianship, or visitation rights previously terminated due to failure to complete or participate in any court-ordered substance abuse or mental health treatment.

HB 3367 extends the coverage of the Children's Specialty Plan to children involved in a Family-Centered Services case, children in the custody of DHS and placed at home under court supervision, children who are placed at home in a trial reunification plan, and Medicaid-enrolled parents and guardians of such children.

HB 3231 creates a procedure for verifying the homelessness status of children and youth. The procedure involves checks by designated individuals and agencies, including homeless shelters, transitional living programs, and public schools. Additionally, the measure authorizes homeless children and youth under 18 years old to apply for a REAL ID Noncompliant Identification Card without the signature of their parent or legal guardian. The REAL ID Noncompliant Identification Card issued to homeless children and youth will only be valid for four years after the month of issuance.

SB 1385 authorizes community service providers to utilize remote support. The measure defines *remote support* as the utilization of technology by community service workers who are in remote locations, away from the residences or locations of individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities, to provide health-related services or supportive assistance to those individuals. Communication with those individuals must be achieved with the use of two-way communications by community service workers via telephone or video feeds.

DHS is authorized and required to obtain a national criminal history records search for remote community service providers. The search must be conducted by Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In addition, any searches of community service providers must include the Restricted Registry, the sex offender registry, Department of Corrections files, the Oklahoma State Courts Network. Searches in the Oklahoma State Courts Network do not apply to remote community service providers. The applicant will pay for the search.

SB 901 modifies the definition of *child abuse* as it relates to custody hearings to have the same meaning as *abuse* as currently defined in the Oklahoma Children's Code. The measure also requires the court to consider child abuse and harassment of a parent when considering child placement.

SB 1638 requires that reports submitted to law enforcement regarding a missing child in foster care include a photo of the missing child, a detailed description of their physical features, and information about potential endangerment, if available. The measure requires DHS to maintain regular communication with law enforcement and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to provide for the safe recovery of a missing or abducted child or youth.

HB 3015 revises the practicum requirement for licensed social workers, licensed clinical social workers, and licensed social workers with an administration specialty from two years to 3,000 hours of postgraduate experience in the related field.

SB 1525 eliminates the requirement to include members from the parent-guardian associations of the Northern Oklahoma Resource Center of Enid and the Southern Oklahoma Resource Center of Pauls Valley on the advisory committee on service delivery for persons with developmental disabilities.

SB 1137 directs DHS to use \$3 million for Home- and Community-Based Services Waivers and to deposit \$5.6 million into the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Account. DHS must use an adequate amount of funds for specified increases of provider rates for various programs and maintain the same funding for senior nutrition programs as the prior fiscal year. Lastly, the measure appropriates all federal monies received by the state to fund the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant and the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

SB 1192 transfers \$8,085,454 from Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC) to DHS to provide additional funding for a grant program that supports food programs, ensuring the availability and access to affordable and nutritious foods.

SB 1931 repeals sections of law related to the care of indigent persons.

Long-Term Care

HB 3668 requires that prosecutions for sexual abuse of a vulnerable adult must begin within 12 years of discovering the crime. The measure includes all adult sexual abuse crimes and extends the statute of limitations for these offenses. It also expands the definition of racketeering to include Medicaid fraud and sets penalties based on the amount of fraudulent payments. Convicted individuals will face proportional fines, up to three years imprisonment, or both, and must cover investigation and litigation costs, with all collected funds deposited into the Attorney General's (AG) Medicaid Revolving Fund.

HB 3919 establishes guidelines for referral agencies referring individuals to assisted living centers. Referral agencies must disclose a description of their services, who is responsible for paying the referral fee, and the consumer's right to stop using the agency without penalty. The measure requires the referral agencies to consider consumer preferences when selecting assisted living centers or continuum of care facilities, and decisions cannot be based solely on cost. The measure prohibits referral agencies from referring consumers to facilities in which they have a financial interest, holding power of attorney or property for consumers, referring to unlicensed facilities, and collecting fees for certain transfers or expired referrals. Referral agencies must conduct background checks on employees, maintain liability insurance, audit referred facilities for licensure compliance, provide employee training, and notify facilities about referrals in a timely manner. Written contracts between referral agencies and facilities may include compensation based on various factors, such as the volume or value of referrals. Referral agencies violating the law may face civil penalties of \$500 per violation, and actions can be brought by the AG or district attorneys, who may also recover attorney fees and litigation costs.

HB 3980 defines *hospice care* as a comprehensive program of palliative and comfort care provided to individuals with a terminal illness and a life expectancy

of six months or less. The measure requires that care be related to symptom management, maintaining activities of daily living, and basic functional skills. Care must be directed by a physician. Coverage for hospice services is mandated for all eligible Medicaid members, contingent upon physician certification of terminal illness and documentation supporting the prognosis.

HB 3317 requires that at least one team member undergo dementia-specific training on Alzheimer's disease and dementia in investigations involving elder or vulnerable adult abuse victims. The training should include one of the following: communication skills, problem-solving related to challenging behaviors, or an explanation of Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia.

HB 3371 expands the list of individuals exempt from the Home Care Act to include home care assistants that only provide Medicaid care services through a contract with the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA). These individuals must be supervised by a registered nurse at least once every three months and have demonstrated competency in various caregiving tasks outlined in a written training plan developed by a registered nurse.

SB 1511 permits employers to conduct criminal history background checks after extending a job offer to a nurse aide. Previous law required conducting checks before offering employment. The measure reduces the waiting period for hiring individuals with specific criminal convictions from seven years to five years after completing their sentence. Lastly, the measure expands the list of disqualifying offenses to include crimes mandating registration on the sex offender registry and offenses related to human trafficking.

SB 1134 directs OHCA to utilize \$30 million of appropriated funds to increase reimbursements to long-term and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

SB 1136 establishes the Developmental Disability Services Revolving Fund for the purpose of funding the in-home supports for adults waiver, in-home supports for children waiver, homeward bound waiver, and community waiver within DHS. ■



Higher Education

Scholarships and Access

HB 1795 creates the Sergeant CJ Nelson Legacy Act. The measure provides a five-year exemption for room and board at any state college or university for children of police officers, emergency medical technicians, and firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

SB 1328 allows a student who has completed the core curriculum graduation requirements to use an Oklahoma's Promise scholarship to attend a CareerTech school.

SB 1302 allows a student who was placed in the custody of the Department of Human Services at any time from eighth through 11th grade to enroll in Oklahoma's Promise.

HB 3792 creates the Oklahoma Access and Achievement Program to provide scholarships to eligible students with intellectual disabilities studying in a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program (CTP). A student is eligible for the program if they graduated high school in the previous six years, have enrolled in a CTP program, and establish financial need. The program is an expansion of Oklahoma's Promise.

SB 1624 allows students enrolled in a comprehensive transition program approved by the U.S. Department of Education to be eligible for an Oklahoma tuition aid grant.

Miscellaneous

SB 1185 appropriates \$56,250,000 to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE). \$39,375,000 of that

apportionment must be used for four-year universities other than the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University. \$16,875,000 must be used for two-year institutions.

SB 1559 excludes colleges and universities under the authority of OSRHE from the provisions of the comprehensive professional risk management program. Colleges and universities can request advice for property insurance coverage, but the risk management administrator is not allowed to direct the purchase of property insurance from a specific entity.

SB 1126 authorizes the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents to establish a program for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists within the College of Nursing.

HB 3276 gives the State Board of Career and Technology Education the sole authority to promulgate rules for a technology center instructor certification system.

HB 2989 prohibits higher education institutions from requiring a College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) test score above what is recommended by College Board in order to receive course credit. The president of a higher education institution may set a higher score requirement for advanced courses.

SB 991 authorizes the Department of Career and Technology Education to determine in which grades agricultural education programs should be offered.

HB 3234 authorizes the State Board of Career Tech to decide what work experience and educational attainment a person 21

years or older must have to attain a high school equivalency diploma.

HB 4050 allows private colleges and universities to grant religious degrees without the State Regents' authorization, as long as the degrees are used for religious purposes within religious organizations or to teach at a convent or seminary. Degrees offered under this exception must include a religious modifier on the degree, transcript, and official school documents.

SB 1786 allows a contract using the name, image, or likeness of an athlete to extend beyond the athlete's time at the postsecondary institution if the contract is between the athlete and the institution.

SB 1787 allows a public educational institution to keep any name, image, or likeness contract with a student athlete confidential.

HB 3459 updates state law to match changes in federal law and clarifies that the Oklahoma Student Loan Authority's loans are no longer federally insured.

HB 4157 directs the State Board of Equalization to determine the amount of revenue necessary to fund the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program (OHLAP) and reflect that amount in the annual certification of appropriations.

SB 1592 modifies membership for the Board of Trustees for OSU-Tulsa to allow the chair of the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges (A&M Board) to select one of the nine members of the board. ■



Judiciary

Judicial Administration

HB 2923 rejects the 17 percent across-the-board pay raise for state judges as recommended by the Board on Judicial Compensation. Instead, a 7 percent raise is approved by the Legislature for district, associate district, and special district judges effective July 1, 2024.

SB 1173 increases the number of special judges appointed in the Judicial District 14 (Tulsa and Pawnee counties) from three to five.

SB 473 creates a judicial office in Judicial District 7 (Oklahoma County) and Judicial District 14 (Tulsa and Pawnee counties). The method for selecting judges, salary, court staffing, and other procedures will be determined by the newly established 11-member Task Force for the Study of Business Courts. The task force will remain in effect until January 31, 2026, and membership to the task force will be determined by the Speaker, President Pro Tempore, Chief Justice, and Governor.

HB 3014 removes the requirement that the IT director of the courts be selected by a three-member committee and deletes obsolete language related to the funding the Oklahoma Supreme Court Information System.

HB 3634 exempts the Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters and the Board of Examiners of Certified Courtroom Interpreters from having to follow certain requirements related to licensure if an applicant has pending charges or a conviction.

SB 1456 directs the Court of Civil Appeals to establish the Court of Existing Claims (CEC) division to replace the three-judge panel of the Workers' Compensation Court of Existing Claims. The CEC has jurisdiction over all workers' compensation claims filed before February 1, 2014. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court must appoint one judge

from a list of retired judges on a rotational basis to serve as the CEC trial judge.

Civil Procedure

HB 3962 creates the Oklahoma Uniform Directed Trust Act of 2024 and the Oklahoma Qualified Disposition into Trust Act. The Oklahoma Uniform Directed Trust Act of 2024 establishes a framework to govern directed trusts allowing specified powers and duties to be allocated to the following directing parties in a trust instrument: investment trust advisor, distribution trust advisor, or trust protector. These individuals may be granted the same rights and privileges available to a trustee, are a fiduciary of the trust, and are subject to the same duties, standards, and liabilities as a trustee unless the governing documents state otherwise. The measure also outlines the requirements for notifying beneficiaries of the existence of a trust, the qualifications to be a trust advisor or protector, and terms for qualified dispositions into a trust.

The Oklahoma Qualified Disposition into Trust Act establishes a framework to allow for the creation of irrevocable trusts whose assets cannot be reached by creditors if the trust meets a set of specified criteria. When properly adhered to, this protection applies to qualified dispositions valued at up to \$10 million.

The measure also authorizes trustees to use trust assets to pay attorneys, accountants, agents, and brokers any reasonable compensation and costs necessary in the administration of a trust estate and clarifies that the creation of an attorney-client relationship between an attorney and a person serving as a fiduciary does not impose upon the attorney any duties or obligations to other persons interested in the estate, trust estate, or other fiduciary property, even though fiduciary funds may be used to compensate the attorney for legal services rendered to the fiduciary. In addition, the measure provides that any

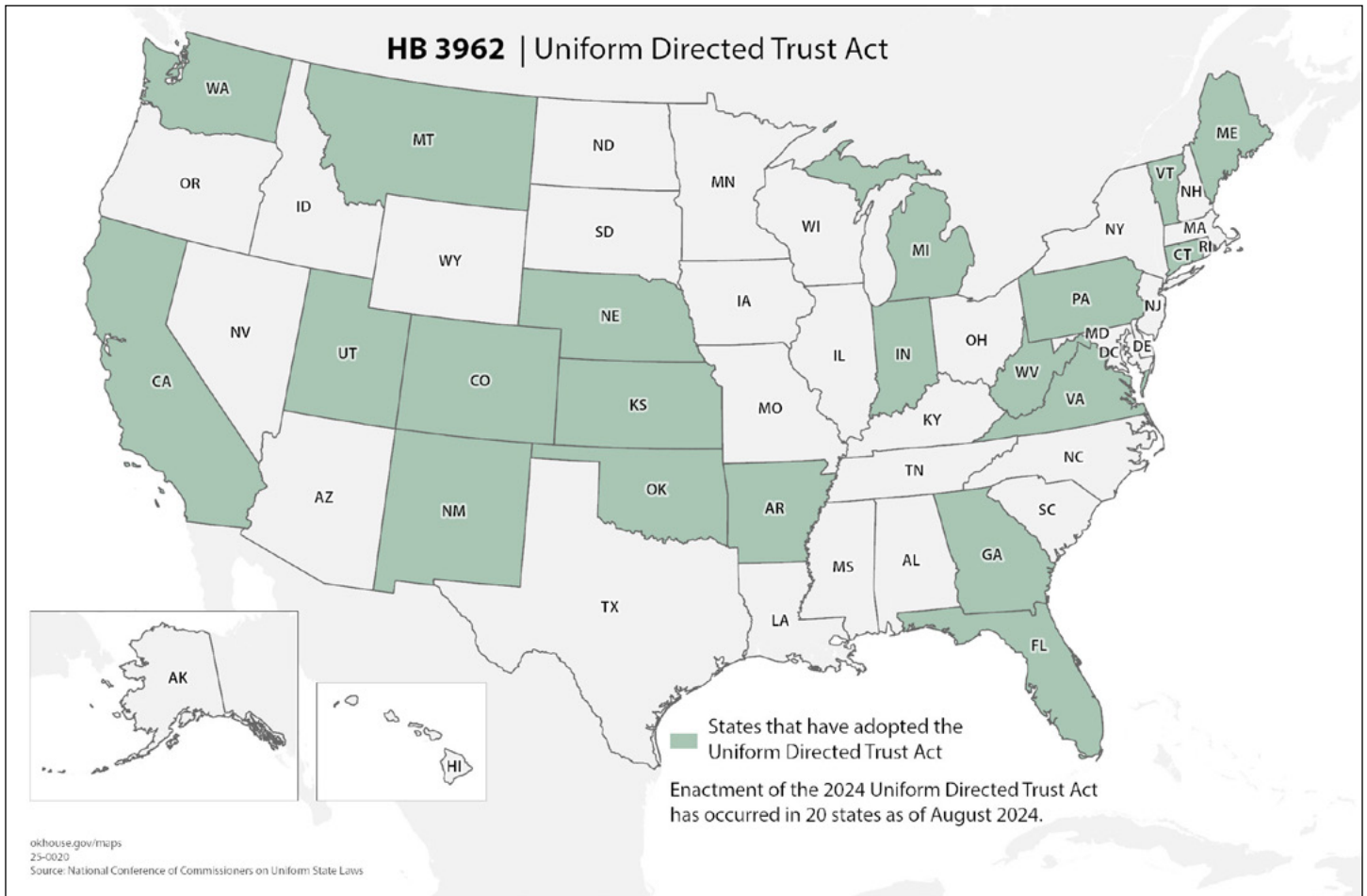
trust created using the laws of this state may have a perpetual duration if a timing provision or limit is not stated in the trust document and modifies the procedures for judicial proceedings that involve a breach of trust. The map on the following page shows the states that have also adopted the Uniform Directed Trust Act.

HB 3778 creates the Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act, which is a uniform law developed by the Uniform Law Commission (ULC). The act creates a framework to govern access to a person's online accounts when the account owner dies or loses the ability to manage the account. Account owners may use an online tool to direct the custodian of the account to disclose some or all of the users digital assets to a named fiduciary. If the person did not use an online tool to name a fiduciary, the owners can grant access to a fiduciary by will, trust, power of attorney or another instrument conveying access.

SB 1819 adopts the Uniform Special Deposits Act as recommended by the ULC. The act establishes a framework for banks and their customers to utilize special deposits, which is a deposit of money at a bank for a particular purpose when the person entitled to the money is determined after a specified event or contingency occurs. For a special deposit to be governed by the act, the bank and the customer must agree to be covered by the act through their account agreement.

HB 3159 gives landowners the right of first refusal if their acquired land is ever sold by the state or any person who acquired the land through eminent domain. This right does not apply if the land is transferred to another state agency.

SB 468 creates the Uniform Electronic Estate Planning Documents Act which authorizes the use of electronic wills as long as they meet certain conditions as recommended by the ULC. The measure outlines the process for revoking electronic wills, their execution, and the creation of certified paper copies. Electronic non-



testamentary estate planning documents or signatures cannot be denied legal effect solely because they are electronic. Any document that must be notarized or witnessed may be satisfied if an authorized individual attaches their electronic signature on the document alongside other required information. Individuals can create certified paper copies of electronic documents by affirming their accuracy under penalty of perjury. Electronic documents may also be used in evidentiary proceedings.

HB 3774 expands the child hearsay exception to allow statements describing domestic abuse, neglect, enabling physical abuse or neglect, kidnapping, child abuse, rape, abduction, carnal abuse, and seduction of children. Statements describing these acts will be admissible in juvenile deprived proceedings and criminal and juvenile delinquent proceedings whether the testimony is done in person, via videoconferencing, or through other alternative means. Such statements are also subject to the disclosure and notice requirements under the Oklahoma Criminal Discovery Code.

SB 1959 provides that any commercial entity that knowingly and intentionally

publishes or distributes obscene material, or material that depicts or promotes child pornography or child sexual exploitation, on the Internet may be held liable to an individual for nominal damages, actual damages, court costs, and reasonable attorney fees. Any commercial entity that knowingly and intentionally publishes or distributes material harmful to minors on the Internet must provide Internet service subscribers and cellular service subscribers an opportunity to request that access to the harmful material be denied. Once requested, the commercial entity must block access on any device seeking to access its website using the subscriber’s Internet service or cellular service subscription so that a minor does not receive material via that subscription. A commercial entity which performs reasonable age verification methods is not liable for allowing access to its website. The Attorney General is allowed to seek injunctive relief against a commercial entity that fails to comply.

HB 1547 provides instruction for the distribution of money recovered from a civil proceeding on behalf of a minor. When the sum is over \$25,000, the court must approve any transfer to a bank, trust, or account set aside for the minor. When the sum is between \$1,500 and \$25,000, a

settlement agreement outside of court may be utilized. When the amount is \$1,500 or less, the court may direct those funds to a trustee. The measure requires the adult acting on behalf of a minor, including an attorney, to complete an affidavit and any financial institution receiving money on behalf of a minor to complete a receipt of deposit. Template language for the affidavit and deposit receipt is provided by the bill. Civil protections are also granted to any person or insurer involved in the settlement for future claims if they have acted in good faith. Lastly, the measure repeals the Oklahoma Statutory Thresholds for Settlements Involving Minors Act of 2022.

SB 1593 gives the court discretion to determine if someone with a past criminal conviction is qualified to serve as an executor or administrator in a probate proceeding.

HB 1611 allows an officer, member, manager, partner, trustee, or employee of a corporate or legal entity to represent the entity in small claims proceedings.

HB 3036 eliminates the option for a jury trial for forcible entry and detainer lawsuits. The measure also removes the ability for a judge to require the county

sheriff to procure potential jurors when no jury is available from the general panel.

HB 3684 expands the list of admissible evidence that is self-authenticating to include records generated by an electronic process that has been certified to produce an accurate result and data copied from an electronic device that is authenticated by a digital identification process.

HB 3467 allows property that is subject to a partition sale to be sold by a sealed

bid auction or public auction in lieu of a sale by the sheriff. The measure outlines criteria for auction procedures and auctioneer qualifications.

HB 4148 outlines a list of information that a creditor or debt collector must submit to the court in order to file an action to recover medical debt, which includes a redacted itemized copy of the medical bill and proof of compliance with the following hospital price transparency laws: the Public Health

Services Act, rules adopted by the United State Department of Health and Human Services, and Transparency in Health Care Prices Act.

HB 4150 expands the list of property exempt from bankruptcy proceeding to include any distribution from a retirement plan that is tax exempt or deferred. ■



Public Safety

HB 4156 creates the criminal act of impermissible occupation. Impermissible occupation occurs if the person is an alien and willfully and without permission enters and remains in the Oklahoma without having first obtained legal authorization to enter the United States. A conviction is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for up to one year, a fine of not more than \$500 or both fine and imprisonment. A second or subsequent conviction is a felony, punishable by imprisonment for up to two years, a fine of up to \$1,000 or both fine and imprisonment. Any person convicted of impermissible occupation is required to leave the state within 72 hours following conviction or release from custody, whichever comes later. Any alien who has been denied admission, excluded, or removed, or has departed the United States while an order of removal is outstanding and then enters or attempts to enter or is found in Oklahoma is guilty of a felony. Law enforcement is required to collect all identifying information of persons arrested for impermissible occupation and cross-reference the information with relevant criminal databases. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) is authorized to maintain the collected information. It is an affirmative defense that the person has been granted lawful presence by the federal government or has been granted asylum by the federal government or the defendant was approved for benefits under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Persons convicted of impermissible occupation are also ineligible for probation, delayed sentencing, or participation in community sentencing. The measure declares a statewide preemption on legislation concerning the presence of persons who enter and remain in the state without legal authorization.

HB 2914 creates the Oklahoma Sheriff's Office Funding Assistance Grant Program. The measure allows counties to submit an application for a grant to the Office of the Attorney General one time each fiscal year. Grant awards are \$150,000

to \$300,000, depending on qualifications. Counties awarded a grant are to limit the use of the grant proceeds to the lawful operation of the sheriff's office and may not be used for to pay a salary. The measure also requires the basic salary for sheriff may not be less than \$44,000 and no more than \$74,000.

HB 3639 modifies the crime of nonconsensual dissemination of private sexual images by removing the age qualifier that the image be of a person at least 18 years of age and who is identifiable in the image. The measure also removes the requirement that the image was disseminated with the intent to harass or intimidate the person. The measure modifies the penalty for nonconsensual dissemination of private sexual images if the person is attempting to gain any property or thing of value by increasing the amount of time to be served in prison to up to five years. The measure clarifies that these provisions do not prohibit the prosecution of a person for child pornography. Additionally, any person who disseminates three or more images within a six-month period is guilty of a felony, punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

HB 3642 provides that any person who procures a minor for participation in child pornography or obscene material, or any person who possesses, viewed, accessed, shared, or streamed child pornography or obscene material is subject to prosecution. The measure clarifies the definition of *child pornography* and *obscene material*, and *visual depiction* to include computer-generated or altered images that appear to be a child engaged in obscene acts.

HB 3456 modifies definitions used to protect minors from the display of harmful material and provides legislative intent that statutes relating to the display of material harmful to minors be diligently enforced to protect minor children while

also protecting the free speech rights of the public.

HB 3450 replaces the term *child prostitution* with the term *child sex trafficking* as used throughout the Oklahoma Statutes.

HB 3936 changes the term *child pornography* to the term *child sex abuse material* as used in the Oklahoma Statutes.

SB 1658 establishes a 20-year statute of limitations for the sexual abuse of a vulnerable adult. The measure provides that a person may be prosecuted at any time for child abuse, sexual abuse of a vulnerable adult, and child trafficking if the accused person has provided a confession or admission related to the crime. The measure also eliminates language requiring prosecution to commence within three years from the date on which the identity of the suspect is established by DNA testing.

SB 1662 directs the director of OSBI to develop procedures to enable a qualified entity to request a state and national criminal history record check to determine whether a covered individual is the subject of any child abuse crime.

Motor Vehicles

HB 1854 updates numerous statutory references, definitions, and provisions to reflect the transition of driver licenses services from Department of Public Safety (DPS) to Service Oklahoma.

HB 2102 prohibits driver training schools from allowing a student driver to operate a vehicle with other student passengers unless the parent or guardian of the student passenger has signed a waiver.

HB 3000 creates the Impaired Driving Prevention Advisory Committee to collect, analyze, and interpret relevant crash data on impaired driving and associated collisions. The committee must review, evaluate, and monitor the impaired

driving system and provide a network of communication and cooperation among stakeholders to coordinate efforts and resources to reduce the incidence and severity of impaired collisions. The measure also:

- Removes a requirement that the period of revocation and the Impaired Driver Accountability Program (IDAP) run concurrently;
- Requires pulmonologists to certify medical exemptions from ignition interlock requirements;
- Authorizes the Board of Tests for Alcohol and Drug Influence to establish rules for regulating ignition interlock devices and device providers and charging operation fees;
- Prohibits the board from licensing interlock providers using a lease, clause, or contractual agreement that allows the provider to impound, physically immobilize, or seize a vehicle;
- Authorizes the board to prescribe and approve education and training for ignition interlock services and establish qualifications for ignition interlock service providers; and
- Requires the driving record of a person subject to revocation who enrolls in IDAP to be updated to indicate completion of IDAP without revocation under certain conditions.

HB 3546 clarifies the court's ability to recall outstanding misdemeanor or cost-related warrants. The wording on the summons issued is modified by allowing the court to issue a warrant and refer the case to a court cost compliance liaison. Law enforcement must provide notice to the court clerk when an officer comes into contact with a person subject to a cite and release warrant. A defendant arrested pursuant to a cost arrest warrant must be released after 72 hours in custody or earlier if the defendant proves payment of at least \$100 to each jurisdiction where obligations are owed or if the court conducts a cost or willfulness hearing. The court may send notice of nonpayment of any court-ordered financial obligations to Service Oklahoma with a recommendation to suspend the defendant's driver license if

the defendant has previously been notified of the possibility of a suspension.

HB 3517 modifies the names of the following specialty license plates to resolve a duplicate sections issue:

- Shriners Hospitals for Children;
- Rotary Club of Oklahoma;
- Frederick A. Douglass High School;
- South Central Section of the PGA Foundation; and
- Red Dirt Jeep.

The Hallett Motor Racing Circuit, Tulsa Icon, and ROAD license plates are also allowed to be personalized and used on motorcycles.

HB 3599 allows Service Oklahoma to accept a copy of a birth certificate coupled with a Department of Corrections-issued consolidated record card to serve as a valid form of photo identification to obtain a REAL ID Noncompliant Identification Card.

HB 3618 allows the transfer of a motor vehicle title that has an active lien from a commercial lender if the transfer is to a business entity from a person who owns the business entity.

HB 3671 allows a person to voluntarily designate on their driver license or identification card that the person has been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. The cardholder can choose to have the designation displayed on the driver license or identification card or in the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Telecommunications System. Service Oklahoma must establish and maintain an automated statewide registry accessible by law enforcement officers for identifying and communicating with a person with an autism spectrum disorder. DPS, in consultation with Service Oklahoma, the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET), the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and other entities with expertise in autism, must develop a program to assist and train law enforcement officers to identify and communicate with a person with an autism spectrum disorder.

HB 3885 extends the time from 120 days to one year for municipal or district courts to notify Service Oklahoma about a traffic citation for a defendant released on personal recognizance who has failed to appear without making arrangements to satisfy the citation.

SB 1168 directs DPS to establish a pilot program to expand the availability of Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) training to increase

the number of peace officers qualified to conduct drug-impaired screening tests during impaired driving investigations.

SB 1766 lowers the minimum age for obtaining a permit to operate farm vehicles from 15 to 13 1/2 years of age. The measure also authorizes public school districts, technology center districts overseen by the Oklahoma Department of Career Technology Education, institutions of higher education, and commercial driver training schools to serve as written proctors for various licenses. Service Oklahoma must publish a schedule with availability for the subsequent calendar year of designated examiner courses and trainings. The courses and trainings must occur at least twice per year. The measure also establishes a 4-year driver school and instructor's license and establishes a fee of \$100 for such a license.

SB 2035 creates a new system for allocating temporary license plates on vehicles sold in this state. The Oklahoma New Motor Vehicle Commission and the Oklahoma Used Motor Vehicle, Dismantler, and Manufactured Housing Commission must establish rules and procedures for the designation and registration of authorized temporary license plate vendors. The commission must impose a vendor registration fee and an annual renewal fee of up to \$600. Vendors must provide pre-printed temporary license plates or the equipment and supplies necessary to print temporary license plates to licensed dealers, provide a method for the dealers to electronically enter required purchaser information for each vehicle purchase, and submit required purchaser information to Service Oklahoma every 24 hours. Additionally, the commissions may require each vendor to obtain a \$50,000 bond and maintain commercial liability insurance with a minimum coverage of \$1 million. Dealers and sellers must complete the pre-registration of the vehicle by submitting documentation to Service Oklahoma or a licensed operator within two days of the purchase. Service Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority are also authorized to enter into contracts and agreements to facilitate the authority's access to an owner's vehicle registration information used to charge tolls from owners of vehicles photographed using the turnpike system.

Miscellaneous

HB 3085 allows retail and wholesale firework distributors to sell skyrockets with sticks to state-licensed outdoor display operators and allows the use of skyrockets with sticks in connection with commercial

aerial displays performed by state-licensed outdoor display operators.

HB 3104 requires motor vehicle manufacturers to maintain records describing the allocation and distribution of vehicles to dealers for at least three years. Manufacturers cannot withhold a dealer's fair share of vehicles of the same make and model for 10 years after facility construction. If a dealer is required to move their location and fails to sell the existing facility within 180 days of listing or 90 days after relocation, the manufacturer or distributor must purchase the facility and real estate.

HB 3105 makes numerous changes to provide the same protections found in law for motor vehicle dealers to powersports dealers.

HB 3169 directs the State Fire Marshal Commission to promulgate rules allowing the use and storage of propane-fueled grills, flattop griddles, and electric wood pellet grills on boat docks. Violations must be assessed to the person committing prohibited acts. The owner or operator of the marina or dock is not liable for the actions of its tenants and others.

HB 3786 extends the exemption period for retired peace officers applying to become licensed as an armed security guard or private investigator from one year to

five years after retirement. The measure also exempts retired peace officers from submitting a fingerprint card to the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET) and from providing a copy of any existing criminal history data if they submit a notarized letter confirming their retirement in good standing.

HB 3998 requires CLEET training repayment to the original employing agency if the person who participated in the training resigns and is employed by another law enforcement agency within one year of the date they were commissioned by the original agency.

SB 721 removes language requiring firearms instructors to train with a specific type of firearm in order to qualify as an instructor for that firearm. The measure also removes the requirement that a person honorably discharged from active military duty wait 20 years before being exempt from firearm training necessary to obtain a carry concealed license.

SB 1209 removes the Honorary Consul license plates from the list of authorized license plates.

SB 1291 requires an applicant for a renewal of a carry permit to apply 30 days from the expiration of the license. Applicants may

renew their license electronically by meeting digital-specific requirements.

SB 1371 transfers the Office of Homeland Security from the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management to DPS. The Commissioner of Public Safety is designated as the Homeland Security Advisor.

SB 1547 directs Service Oklahoma to promulgate rules for the mass renewal of commercial vehicle registration for businesses that possess at least 10 commercial vehicles.

SB 1909 transfers the affiliation of the monarch butterfly license plate from the Nature Conservancy of Oklahoma to the Oklahoma Monarch Society. The measure also creates a Broken Arrow Public Schools license plate.

SB 1923 modifies allowable special pedestrian-control signals and signage. The measure also clarifies that traffic may only flow counterclockwise around the central island of a circular intersection.

SB 1930 provides that deploying, implementing, or using motor carrier safety improvement equipment required by a motor carrier or its related entity, including by contract, does not affect an individual's status as an employee or independent contractor, or as a jointly employed employee. ■



Revenue & Taxation

Oklahoma joined the majority of states that offer a sales tax exemption on groceries when the Legislature enacted **HB 1955**, which eliminates the 4.5 percent state sales tax on the retail sale of *food and food ingredients*. Any sales or excise tax levied by a local government on said items will be unaffected. The measure also directs the Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC) to promulgate rules to implement the act in accordance with the Streamline Sales and Use Tax Agreement.

A related measure, **SB 1283** adds a definition for *bottled water and food sold with eating utensils provided by the seller*, as it relates to the state sales tax exemption on groceries and food items. The measure also amends the definition of *prepared food* to clarify that food sold with eating utensils provided by the seller is taxable if it does not include a container or packaging used to transport the food. The definition of *prepared food* is further modified to exclude food sold by a food manufacturer, food sold in an unheated state by weight or volume as a single item, and food sold that ordinarily requires additional cooking by the consumer prior to consumption. The measure also eliminates the temporary moratorium on local sales tax increases on food and food ingredients that would have been in place until June 30, 2025.

HB 3388 makes numerous updates the Parental Choice Tax Credit (PCTC). The measure:

- Exempts payments received pursuant to the PCTC from being used to offset or pay delinquent tax liabilities, penalties, or interest or intercepted by any entity seeking to collect a debt, court fine, or court-ordered judgement;
- Exempts PCTC payments from taxable income effective tax year 2024;
- Clarifies that students that are expected to enroll in a private school are eligible for the credit;
- Amends the definition of *qualified expense* to exclude tuition and fees paid with a scholarship or any tuition

and fees that are discounted by the school;

- Aligns the tax credit period with the fiscal year beginning FY 2026 and modifies the tax credit caps to align with the transition from tax year to fiscal year;
- Amends the income criteria to be based on the combined adjusted gross income of the parents or legal guardians of the student rather than the household income;
- Allows students that attend an accredited private school that exclusively serves homeless or financially disadvantaged students to receive the maximum \$7,500 credit amount or the cost to educate the student, whichever is less;
- Replaces the affidavit requirement with an enrollment verification form requirement that OTC will use to determine the installment payment amounts;
- Allows taxpayers that are in receipt of income-based government benefits such as SNAP, TANF or SoonerCare to bypass additional income verification requirements;
- Aligns the application process for the tax credit with the school year. The application period will open on February 15 of each preceding school year, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year;
- Prohibits OTC from requiring any taxpayer that received the credit in the fall of 2024 to reapply in the spring of 2025 and requires the credit amount for spring of 2025 to be based on the amount issued for the fall of 2024;
- Grants priority consideration to applicants with an income of \$150,000 or less as long as the application is

submitted within the first 60 days of the application period;

- Requires credits to be prorated by semester, paid in two installments;
- For student enrolled in the full school year, payments will be issued by August 30 and January 15;
- For students not enrolled in a full school year, payments will be issued within 30 days after the application is approved or during the first 30 days of the semester that student is enrolled in, whichever is later;
- Directs OTC to prioritize taxpayers with students that received the credit in the prior year and are below the \$150,000 income qualifier if the number of applications exceed the allowed cap for the year;
- Requires taxpayers to provide notification to the OTC within 30 days of certain actions that would disqualify them from receiving the credit;
- Allows OTC to reallocate unused credit to the next eligible taxpayer in line if they receive notice from a taxpayer that they cannot or will not be participating in the program for any reason;
- Requires OTC to notify applicants of their approval status within 30 days of closure of the application window; and
- Requires OTC publish monthly updates on its website regarding the number of credits claimed and students receiving funds.

HB 4062 eliminates the sunset date for the small business guaranty fee tax credit and clarifies that the credit may only be claimed by banks that have a main office located in the state.

SB 1215 eliminates the deadline of November 1, 2023 for registering with the veteran's registry so that qualifying disabled veterans receiving the sales tax exemption prior to

November 1, 2020 do not lose their exemption status for failure to meet the deadline.

SB 1438 allows a heavy equipment rental business to offset personal property tax paid on rented equipment by assessing a 1.25 percent recovery fee for any item of heavy equipment rented by a consumer.

HB 3031 exempts emergency medical service districts from paying motor fuel tax.

SB 1259 extends the ability to file rebate claims for the sales tax exemption on broadband equipment indefinitely. Claims must be submitted by September 1 of the subsequent calendar year that the purchase was made. The measure also extends the reporting requirement on broadband expansion that is completed by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

SB 1401 updates definitions and criteria related to the Strategic Industrial Development Enhancement Tax Credit by adding rehabilitation of existing inactive rail to the list of qualified initial infrastructure expenditures and eliminating limitations on the amount that can be assigned to a qualifying project affiliate.

SB 1445 adds the Oklahoma State University (OSU) Medical Authority Trust and the OSU Veterinary Medicine Authority and Trust to the list of public entities that are exempt from sales tax. The measure also extends the sales tax exemption to their contractors for goods and services purchased on behalf of the entity.

HB 4072 allows a person who previously qualified for the aerospace engineer employee tax credit to be able to claim the credit again with a different qualified employer as long

as they do not claim the credit for more than five total tax years in their lifetime.

HB 3051 allows unutilized clean burning motor vehicle fuel property tax credits to be shared between categories if one or more of the categories does not exhaust all of the allowable credits for the year. Current law caps the credit amount for the following tax credit categories at \$10 million each:

- \$10 million for property propelled by compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, or liquefied petroleum gas;
- \$10 million for hydrogen powered property; and
- \$10 million for public access electric charging stations.

SB 2025 allows oil and gas producers to elect to report and pay the gross production tax on any oil that is retained by the producer and not sold at the time of production. When that oil is eventually sold, the purchaser of any oil transferred off a lease will not be liable for the gross production tax and will not be required to obtain a purchaser's reporting number for said oil.

HB 4018 clarifies that reallocated and rolled over affordable housing tax credits will count against the \$4 million cap for their original allocation year and not against the limit of the year in which they are allocated.

HB 3933 amends one of the conditions for being exempt from a tax lien sale by increasing the fair cash value threshold for property exempt from a sale from \$125,000 to \$180,000. Under prior law, when a tax lien has been unpaid for more than three years, the county treasurer is required to sell the

property at a sheriff sale unless the market value of the property is less than \$125,000.

HB 3559 allows any entity required to file a partnership or S-corporation income tax return to elect to become an electing pass-through entity and by filing a timely income tax return.

Tax Administration

SB 2023 allows money in OTC and Office of Management and Enterprise Services Joint Computer Fund to be used for information technology acquisitions for the OTC.

HB 3346 allows OTC to revoke sales tax permits after 12 months of inactivity as long as the permit holder was notified of the pending revocation and given the chance to appeal the pending revocation.

HB 3458 expands the list of exceptions that allow OTC to share confidential tax records and be immune from liability for the disclosure. The measure adds district attorneys and the Attorney General to the list of people that can request a court order for tax records to assist with the investigation and prosecution of felony drug trafficking or money laundering crimes. OTC may also share information with the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority for the compliance with Oklahoma Medical Marijuana and Patient Protection Act.

SB 2029 renames the Director of Internal Affairs of OTC to the Director of Safety and Security and changes the qualifications and powers and duties for the position. The director must be CLEET certified, may carry a firearm, and must assist with security of OTC facilities but may not investigate violations of tax laws. ■



Transportation

This year several bills including **HB 3516**, **HB 2291**, and **SB 1803** all designated the following memorial bridges, highways, roadways, or interchanges:

- Captain Jeff Sewell Memorial Highway;
- Cathy Cummings Memorial Interchange;
- C.B. and Lois Craft Memorial Bridge;
- Col Derek Grimes Memorial Highway;
- Col. John L. Smith Medal of Honor Recipient Memorial Highway;
- Cpl Mick Ray Bekowsky USMC Memorial Interchange;
- Dale McFarlin Memorial Highway;
- Dr. Harry E. Heath, Jr. Memorial Bridge;
- Jake Weston Reid Memorial Bridge;
- James L. Holt, Pres. of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Memorial Bridge;
- Jim Potter Memorial Bridge;
- Joe Diffie Memorial Highway;
- Larry Brinkley Memorial Highway;
- Lawrence Moylan Memorial Highway;
- LCpl Anthony D. Botello Memorial Bridge;
- LCpl Charles Nick Bondi Memorial Highway;
- Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Stafford Memorial Interchange;
- Major Helen F. Holmes Memorial Highway;
- Manual “Pop” and Mary Ruth Russell Memorial Highway;
- Nelson F. Carr Memorial Bridge;
- Nettie Sands Memorial Bridge;
- Patrolman Joseph Barlow Memorial Bridge;
- Private 2nd Class Joshua Francis Powers Memorial Highway;
- PVT Richard Gary Leivas Memorial Highway;
- Ryan Gwaltney Memorial Bridge;
- Senator Anthony M. Massad Memorial Highway;
- SFC Theodore Emmett Lowery Memorial Highway;
- SGT Earl Roy “Pete” Lester, Jr. Purple Heart Recipient Memorial Highway;
- Sgt. Frank A. Bennett Memorial Bridge;
- Sgt. Meagan Burke Memorial Bridge;
- Sgt. Robert “Bobby” Blaine Swartz Memorial Bridge;
- SP4 Donald P. Sloat Medal of Honor Recipient Memorial Highway;
- Spc. Jaykob Ray Pruitt Memorial Bridge;
- SSG Rusty Dunagan Memorial Bridge;
- SSGt. Daniel Neil Fannin Memorial Bridge;
- Trooper Charlie Hanger Honorary Mile; and
- U.S. Army 2LT William A. Fox, Jr. Memorial Bridge.

The measure also modifies the location descriptions of the Zachary Charles Keever Memorial Highway and the OHP Captain Larry Jackson Memorial Highway.

SB 1429 redesignates the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System Infrastructure Revolving Fund as the

Oklahoma Ports Infrastructure Revolving Fund (OPIRF) and modifies its purpose. The fund includes:

- Money received from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) for waterway and waterway port projects;
- Principal, interest, and penalty payments on loans made directly from appropriated monies in the fund; and
- Any other monies received from public or private sources.

ODOT can expend OPIRF funds for qualified projects with approval from the Transportation Commission. Qualified projects must enhance the operation of commercial waterway systems in the state and repair, improve, or construct waterway or industrial park infrastructure on waterway ports that provide a public benefit. The measure stipulates what percentages of the fund can be given in grants and loans and how much must be reserved for emergency repairs each year.

HB 2915 authorizes the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority to obligate \$500 million to ODOT to be used to maintain and improve certain highway and bridge projects. Those projects include the:

- Bridge on Highway 70 over Lake Texoma;
- U.S. Highway 81 realignment in Grady County; and
- Interstate 35 in Cleveland, McLain, Garvin, Murray, Carter, and Love counties.

SB 1403 removes the apportionment limits for the county highway funds under the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act and clarifies that the amount apportioned after fiscal years 2026 and beyond does not exceed the amount apportioned for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2025.

HJR 1058 approves the rules promulgated by the Oklahoma Route 66 Commission to award grants for approved projects in communities along Route 66.

Aerospace

HB 3672 and **SB 1912** provide for the definition of *VTOL aircraft*, which is aircraft that have the ability to take off and land vertically and of *vertiport*, which is the area of land used for the takeoff and landing of VTOL aircraft. Additionally, the

measure adds vertiports as a type of airport that a municipality can own and updates language to include vertiports under the Municipal Airports Act and the Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics (ODAA) Act. Lastly, the measure requires ODAA to create a framework to guide the further development of Oklahoma's air transportation system, including vertiports, for the use of unmanned aircraft systems and advanced air mobility.

SB 1294 creates the non-profit Oklahoma Aerospace Foundation to support ODAA

in developing the state's aviation and aerospace industry.

SB 1393 creates the Long-Term Aerospace and Aeronautics Infrastructure Sustainability Revolving Fund. Money appropriated to the fund must be expended by ODAA for construction, maintenance, or other capital projects. A report regarding the balance and expenditures of the fund must be sent to the Senate and House Appropriations and Budget chairs monthly. ■



Veterans & Military Affairs

SB 1384 modifies appointment procedures for the nine-member Oklahoma Veterans Commission, no longer requiring one member to be a veteran of the Vietnam War or two to be veterans of the Persian Gulf Wars. Members of the commission will be appointed to three-year terms by the Governor under the advice and consent of the Senate. One of the three at-large Governor appointees must have served in the military post 9/11. The Governor will appoint six additional members from lists of names provided by the following veteran organizations:

- American Legion;
- Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States;
- Disabled American Veterans;
- Military Order of Purple Heart;
- National Guard Association of Oklahoma; and
- Paralyzed Veterans of America.

The organizations must present three nominees to the Governor by March 1 of the year in which

the term of the organization's appointee expires. Alongside nominations, organizations must furnish a certificate of good standing, tax returns, and a statement outlining their mission and services. The bill eliminates the necessity for financial and performance audits. Failure to comply permits the Governor to appoint a replacement member. Vacancies on the commission are to be filled according to specified procedures, allowing for interim appointments if the nominee meets the required qualifications.

SB 1345 adds the United States Space Force as a uniformed service under the newly named Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act.

SB 1707 establishes the state veterans home in Sallisaw. The Oklahoma Veterans Commission will determine the new location, which will replace the veterans home in Talihina. The measure also permits the proceeds from selling the veterans home in Talihina to be utilized for the operations of the new home in Sallisaw.

HB 3673 creates the Oklahoma Tricare Reserve Select Reimbursement Program, administered by the Oklahoma Military Department. The program

is authorized to provide grants to military members on state active-duty orders for more than 30 days to reimburse them for the cost of purchasing Tricare Reserve Select insurance coverage for themselves and their immediate family members.

SB 1215 eliminates the deadline of November 1, 2023 for registering with the veteran's registry so that qualifying disabled veterans receiving the sales tax exemption prior to November 1, 2020 do not lose their exemption status for failure to meet the deadline.

HB 2137 modifies the definition of *deployment* as used in the Deployed Parents Custody and Visitation Act to include *residential zone* and expands the definition of *servicemember* to include the active or reserve components of the Space Force. *Residential zone* means the 75-mile radius surrounding a servicemember's permanent residence. ■



Appendix I Summary of Vetoes

HB 1019 would have exempted the Oklahoma State Department of Health from requests for proposals for sole source acquisitions for the Nurse-Family Partnership Program and the Children First Program.

Governor’s Veto Message:

“Enrolled House Bill 1019 would allow the state Department of Health an exemption from requests for proposals for sole source acquisitions for two specific programs, the Nurse-Family Partnership Program and the Children First program. Unless absolutely necessary, increasing exceptions to the Central Purchasing Act is a step in the wrong direction. As I emphasized in Executive Order 2023-04, the Central Purchasing Act is designed to support a transparent government and a level playing field for vendors desiring to win the State’s business. If we were to allow these exemptions for two specific programs, we’d soon enough find ourselves justifying other unnecessary exemptions.”

HB 1035 would have allowed a school to excuse a student’s absence for mental

health counseling or occupational therapy appointments.

Governor’s Veto Message:

“This bill would require school districts to excuse any child from attending school for the purpose of receiving mental health counseling or occupational therapy. Oklahoma statute already requires school districts to excuse these kinds of absences in the case of physical and mental disability, as well as medical emergencies. Local school districts also retain broad discretion to adopt the kinds of policies contemplated in this bill. Policies that directly affect our students should be handled as close to our kids as possible.”

HB 1553 would have increased from 52 to 58 the statutory cap on the number of full-time employees at the Teachers’ Retirement System of Oklahoma.

Governor’s Veto Message:

“House Bill 1553 would increase the statutory maximum number of full-time-equivalent employees at the Teachers’ Retirement System of Oklahoma from 52 to 58. Because I have not been presented

with a compelling reason for the increase, my continuing commitment to slow the growth of government enjoins on me a duty to veto it.”

HB 2919 would have increased the maximum number of full-time equivalent employees for the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision, the Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners, the State Board of Examiners of Perfusionist, and the State Board of Osteopathic Examiners.

Governor’s Veto Message:

“House Bill 2919 would increase the number of full-time state employees for two state boards by over 20 percent. Because Oklahomans want and need smaller government, these increases are simply unnecessary.”

HB 3039 would have modified how funds collected by the courts are transferred to the law library and would have doubled, from \$6 to \$12, the law library fund fee for all civil court filings in Tulsa and Oklahoma county.

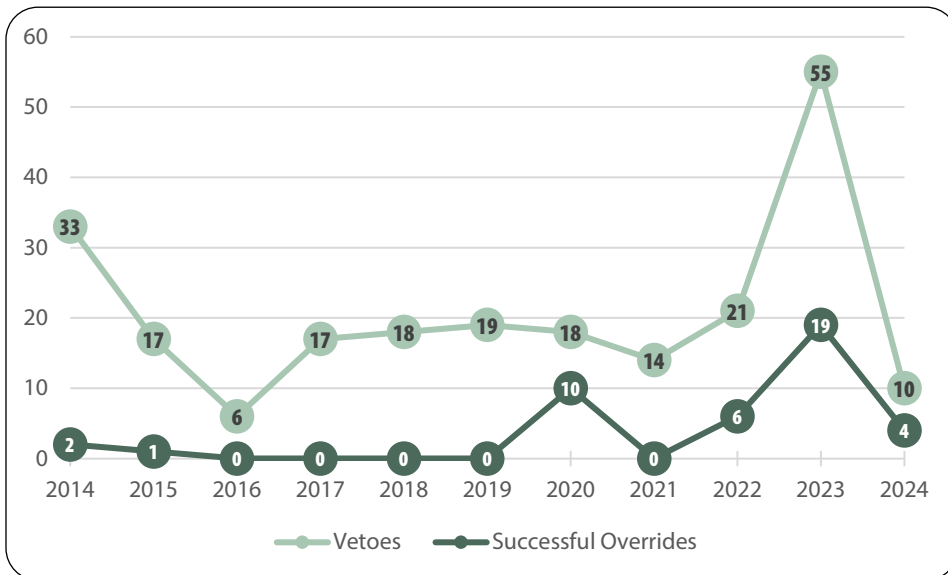
Governor’s Veto Message:

“House Bill 3039 would double the law library fee from \$6 to \$12 for all civil court filings in any county that has a population greater than 500,000. While I appreciate the work of county law libraries and their staffs, these libraries are already up and running. As I understand it, their current budget already allows them to staff the libraries and provide many free resources. Accordingly, there’s no reason to saddle litigants with a 100% fee increase to finance the maintenance of existing libraries. Fee increases restrict access to the courts and make little sense in this context.”

HB 3186 would have added poison hemlock and Kudzu to the list of noxious weeds that are monitored by the state Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry.

Governor’s Veto Message:

“House Bill 3186 would add poison hemlock and Kudzu to the list of noxious weeds



that are designated a public nuisance in all counties across this state and would mandate that every landowner treat, control, or eradicate these noxious weeds. Failure of a landowner to treat, eradicate, or control all noxious weeds may subject the landowner to legal action, including the imposition of a fine not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation per day.

Noxious weed control is a worthy endeavor, but I would prefer to entrust it to individual landowners rather than the environmental state.”

HB 3194 would have required all water wells with a groundwater permit to be equipped with a meter or alternative measuring system approved by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. Further, the measure allowed the board to approve a five-year groundwater permit.

Governor’s Veto Message:

“House Bill 3194 is government overreach at its finest. House Bill 3194 is an unfunded mandate which would require all permitted water wells to be equipped with a water meter that will cost thousands of dollars per meter. While forcing water meters on Oklahomans may seem innocuous, it is undoubtedly a violation of private landowners’ rights and emboldens the government to continue down that path.”

HB 3274 would have allowed schools to administer retests of certain career-readiness assessments to students in the fall semester of 12th grade and administer the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) to students in 10th through 12th grade.

Governor’s Veto Message:

“House Bill 3274 would grow government and increase spending as it would allow the State Board of Education to pay for high school students to retake a nationally recognized college and career readiness assessment. Current law already provides an avenue for high school students to take these tests once at no cost to the student. Although many high school students will continue on to college, many won’t. So, rather than mandate that all high schoolers take college or career readiness assessment tests, the state should offer students that want to take them the opportunity to do so at no cost. If the mandate were removed, the savings would pay for retakes.”

HB 3284 would have modified the membership, duties, and appointment process for the Governmental Technology Applications Review Board.

Governor’s Veto Message:

“House Bill 3284 would take from the Governor an appointment to the State Governmental Technology Applications

Review Board and give it to the judicial branch, resulting in the executive branch having only 3 appointments to the legislative branch’s 4 appointments. This would create yet another unconstitutional imbalance in the makeup for an executive board.”

HB 3802 would have added the Oklahoma Historical Society and Service Oklahoma to the list of entities that are authorized to purchase a passenger automobile or bus with public funds.

Governor’s Veto Message:

“House Bill 3802 would allow the Oklahoma Historical Society to purchase trucks with public funds. Through concerted efforts, the executive branch has reduced the state’s vehicles by over 1,000 unnecessary vehicles, thereby saving significant tax dollars associated with leases, purchases, and maintenance. We should continue that trend, not instead look for ways to onboard new vehicles—especially new trucks that would require lots of upkeep.”

SB 423 would have required that any person 15, 16, or 17 years of age who was charged with endangering another person or causing an accident resulting in great bodily harm while eluding a peace officer to be held accountable as a youthful offender.

Governor’s Veto Message:

“Senate Bill 423 would allow minors charged with aggravated eluding of a peace officer to be held accountable as youthful offenders. Right now, minors charged with aggravated eluding are held

accountable as a juvenile, which means they are punished less severely.

While I do not condone eluding, this crime, although dangerous, does not belong on a list alongside second-degree murder, kidnapping, rape by instrumentation, or forcible sodomy.”

SB 453 would have increased the maximum compensation and retirement benefit for volunteer firefighters.

Governor’s Veto Message:

“I have the deepest appreciation and regards for those who risk their lives to protect our communities, and I will continue to advocate for them. But Senate Bill 453 is a continuation of the slippery slope that I warned of in my veto message for Senate Bill 102. The fiscal insolvency of California’s pension system stands as a stark warning for putting the short-term benefit of some first responders ahead of the long-term security of them all.

Fiscal discipline is always difficult, especially in seasons of economic growth. But we must remain vigilant to ensure that future

generations of Oklahomans experience the same prosperity we enjoy now.”

SB 458 would have allowed Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) recognized as Certified Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse-Midwives, or Clinical Nurse Specialists to prescribe drugs independent of physician supervision after completing a minimum of 6,240 hours of practice with supervised prescriptive authority.

Governor’s Veto Message:

“Although I am aware of the state’s healthcare access and workforce challenges, especially in rural communities, SB 458 is not a prudent solution.

SB 458 would do one primary thing: enable Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) who meet certain criteria to apply for authority to prescribe independent of physician supervision. And that’s my biggest concern. *While APRNs already have the ability to set up clinics in rural Oklahoma and practice in primary care settings*, I don’t believe APRNs should be able to prescribe Schedules III through V controlled substances without physician supervision. Further, *this bill would allow APRNs to have full practice and prescriptive authority in all specialty categories absent supervision*.

That part of the bill that would have mandated that the medical licensure boards collaborate to promulgate uniform rules (1) governing supervision requirements and (2) imposing a reasonable limit on the monetary amount a supervising physician may charge for supervision was good and should be explored.

Finally, I’d also ask that the Legislature explore other ways to attract frontline healthcare workers to rural communities across the state. A tax credit for qualifying practitioners in rural areas of the state is one such idea.”

SB 631 would have allowed members of the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System to use the top base pay option to determine the salary component of their retirement benefit formula regardless of the date of entry into the system.

Governor’s Veto Message:

“I have the deepest appreciation and regards for those who risk their lives to protect our communities, and I will continue to advocate for them. But Senate Bill 631 is a continuation of the slippery slope that I warned of in my veto message for Senate Bill 102. This bill would undue previous pension reforms by awarding “half pay” benefits to pension members hired after 2012. This policy would guarantee an increase in pension benefits for all retirees should currently employed

members receive an increase in salaries. The fiscal insolvency of California's and Illinois' pension systems stands as a stark warning for putting the short-term benefit of some first responders ahead of the long-term security of them all.

Fiscal discipline is always difficult, especially in seasons of economic growth. But we must remain vigilant to ensure that future generations of Oklahomans experience the same prosperity we enjoy now."

SB 800 would have permitted manufacturers to bundle goods with alcoholic beverages in packaging and sell them at a discount to specific professions, as long as the discount did not result in a retail price lower than a 6 percent markup. Retail spirits license holders would have been restricted from pricing items higher online than their physical store shelf price. Additionally, spirits or wines could not be sold to any licensee for less than 15 percent above the wholesaler's cost, except for discontinued or closed-out products.

Governor's Veto Message:

"Senate Bill 800, among other things, would impose a higher price floor on the retail sale of spirits or wine. While I recognize this industry is uniquely regulated, I remain a strong supporter of the free market. I do not believe the government should artificially inflate the prices of goods to protect an industry against competition. If there is concern about future predatory or unfair practices, those concerns should be addressed in a way that is less harmful to the free market and consumers."

SB 1167 would have increased per diem rates at private corrections facilities for medium security and protective custody inmates.

Governor's Veto Message:

"My administration has consistently prioritized fiscal responsibility and slowing the growth of government. This bill would contradict both priorities by entrenching a current government program and creating an unfunded mandate to increase per diem rates paid to private correctional facilities for guarding inmates. Not only was this bill not in the budget agreement, but it also will require more recurring taxpayer spending in this future. As Oklahomans continue to suffer at the hands of inflation and reckless decisions in Washington D.C., I cannot in good conscience put taxpayers on the hook for increasing the salaries of private corporations contracted with the state"

SB 1196 would have exempted the Commissioner of Agriculture or any member of a higher education governing board who is appointed as a Secretary

in the cabinet of the Governor from the prohibition of dual office holding.

Governor's Veto Message:

"Enrolled Senate Bill 1196 is duplicative and unnecessary. Even if Secretaries in the Governor's cabinet were officers under a dual office holding analysis, Oklahoma law already provides for them to simultaneously serve as agency heads.

A person is not prohibited from simultaneously holding more than one office if either: (1) 51 O.S. § 6 specifically exempts them or (2) where the law elsewhere provides an exception. In the case of cabinet Secretaries, there is an exception elsewhere and Oklahoma governors have long operated accordingly. Secretaries' ability to also serve as agency heads is covered in 74 O.S. § 10.3, which provides, in relevant part:

A cabinet Secretary may be ... appointed as a cabinet Secretary from among the agency heads within the cabinet area.

[T]he appointment or removal of a cabinet Secretary who is also an agency head shall not otherwise affect the status of the other duties of the agency head.

While I appreciate the floor amendment author's well-meaning attempt to ensure that a great public servant is spared from potential ripple effects of an Attorney General Opinion, the Secretary of Agriculture and all other cabinet Secretaries who also serve as agency heads can maintain their posts pursuant to the law as it already is. I trust a court of law will soon resolve this issue, so any confusion created by an Attorney General Opinion that disrupted decades-long precedent can be mitigated."

SB 1210 would have allowed a county assessor's office to use aerial images taken from a fixed-wing aircraft to perform property inspections.

Governor's Veto Message:

"Senate Bill 1210, which would allow county assessors to use fixed-wing aircraft to fly over privately owned property, epitomizes unnecessary government overreach. Ensuring the private property rights of all Oklahomans remains a top priority of my administration. This bill would threaten them."

SB 1390 would have given the Attorney General expanded oversight and investigatory powers over pharmacy benefits managers.

Governor's Veto Message:

"PBMs drive up drug prices and make it harder for Oklahomans to access the drugs they rely on. But SB 1390, which would codify expansive definitions of the terms

"covered entity" and "pharmacy benefits management," is not the right solution.

They might seem insignificant, but these definitional changes would transform many businesses—including employers with self-funded health benefit plans and mail-order pharmacy programs—into PBMs. This will drive up operating costs that will be passed on to employees and consumers alike.

In addition, I have grave concerns about the fact this bill would grant yet another state agency unfettered access to detailed data, including protected health information, held by private Oklahoma businesses.

Simply put, because SB 1390 is bad for business and individual Oklahomans, I have vetoed it.

Although I would need to review any subsequent legislation that made it to my desk, I would be willing to consider signing a bill that narrows the expansive definitions referenced above and provides more concrete guidance regarding safeguards for the handling of protected health information."

SB 1543 would have expanded the limitations of a noncompete agreement between an employee and employer to include indirect solicitation of the former employers' customers and their independent contractors.

Governor's Veto Message:

"Senate Bill 1543 would significantly expand employers' power to impede employees' ability to compete with their employer, post-employment, and worse, it would allow employers to restrict individuals' ability to earn a living, especially while using a learned trade or skillset."

SB 1548 would have added the Department of Environmental Quality to the list of entities that are authorized to purchase a passenger automobile or bus with public funds.

Governor's Veto Message:

"Although I'm told DEQ needs to purchase a special vehicle so that it can transport an important mobile laboratory to emergency scenes at a moment's notice, the best solution to DEQ's one-vehicle problem isn't new legislation but working with the Office of Management and Enterprise Services, which already leverages its buying and negotiation powers to save taxpayer money on the state's vehicle fleets.

In an ideal bill, the Legislature would shrink rather than grow the list of agencies exempted from the general prohibition on the purchase of vehicles with public funds. This bill would do the opposite."

SB 1557 would have allowed prior evidence of domestic violence or abuse

to be admissible in any criminal case in which the defendant is accused of domestic violence or abuse.

Governor's Veto Message:

“In Oklahoma, the accused are presumed innocent until proven guilty. Senate Bill 1557 departs from this principal by allowing prosecutors to bring evidence of a defendant’s prior conduct to persuade a jury that the defendant cannot change, and therefore must be guilty.”

This sort of evidence, commonly called propensity evidence, as contemplated by Senate Bill 1557 is impermissible under the Federal Rules of Evidence. This is because such evidence is extremely prejudicial to defendants and obfuscates the prosecution’s duty to show that a defendant committed a specific act, at a specific time, against a specific victim. In Oklahoma, the innocent will not suffer in an attempt to convict the guilty.”

SB 1649 would have added duties to the Office of the Attorney General to assist law enforcement and victims of human trafficking.

Governor's Veto Message:

“As an initial matter, I do not take issue with the provision of Senate Bill 1649 allowing the Attorney General a greater role in preventing human trafficking, and I stand ready to support legislation to that limited effect.

However, empowering the attorney general to initiate criminal actions by information—that is, without the involvement of a grand jury—with the same authority as locally elected district attorneys is a bridge too far. As it stands, the attorney general can initiate criminal prosecutions only after a grand jury has heard evidence, albeit just from the prosecution’s perspective, and handed down an indictment. This bill would dramatically expand authority well beyond limits Oklahoma attorneys general

have operated within since statehood. The authority to file charges without at least the minimal check of a grand jury—a minimal hurdle that the sitting attorney general says has been abused by predecessors—is rightly entrusted to locally elected district attorneys, not statewide politicians. There is simply no justification to significantly enhance the attorney general’s ability to prosecute, especially in light of the attorney general’s expansive view of other duties vested in that office.”

SB 1661 would have required the executor or administrator of an estate to deposit any money meant for a minor into a bank in the state if there is no legal or qualified guardian for the minor. The funds would be released to the minor on their 18th birthday or sent to the State Treasurer’s unclaimed property fund if the funds are not claimed by the minor’s 22nd birthday.

Governor's Veto Message:

“Senate Bill 1661 would result in the relinquishment of money rightfully belonging to certain minors who do not have guardians, if the money is unclaimed by the individual’s 22nd birthday. Very simply, the State shouldn’t be so quick to strip individuals of entitlement to their property, especially when no notice is required before doing so, as here.”

SB 1737 would have allowed victims of stalking or electronic harassment to file a cause of action against the perpetrator for actual and punitive damages and injunctive relief when the victim has suffered business interruption or has incurred expenses to remediate the underlying online stalking.

Governor's Veto Message:

“Senate Bill 1737 is antithetical to needed tort reform. While the bill may, on its face, be well-intentioned, the language is ripe for abuse by litigious individuals and organizations. As laid out in the bill, criminal laws are already on the books

to curb the wrongful conduct – stalking and electronically transmitted obscenities, threats, and harassment – at issue here. We ought to be exploring ways to limit civil liability in Oklahoma, not the other way around.”

SB 1751 would have required guardians of incapacitated adults to complete training relevant to the specific condition of the individual under their care. Courts would have been authorized to enforce this requirement by compelling individuals seeking guardianship to undergo the prescribed training.

Governor's Veto Message:

“Senate Bill 1751 would require courts to compel applicants for guardianships for proposed wards with neurological conditions such as Alzheimer’s disease, dementia, or other similar developmental disability to complete prerequisite training by an approved program. While certain training may be beneficial in certain circumstances, courts are already able to mandate it, if necessary. And I do not believe the government should create additional, perhaps unnecessary, barriers for family and friends already equipped and desiring to care for loved ones.”

SB 1759 would have required individuals installing more than one individual sewage disposal system per year to obtain certification from the Department of Environmental Quality.

Governor's Veto Message:

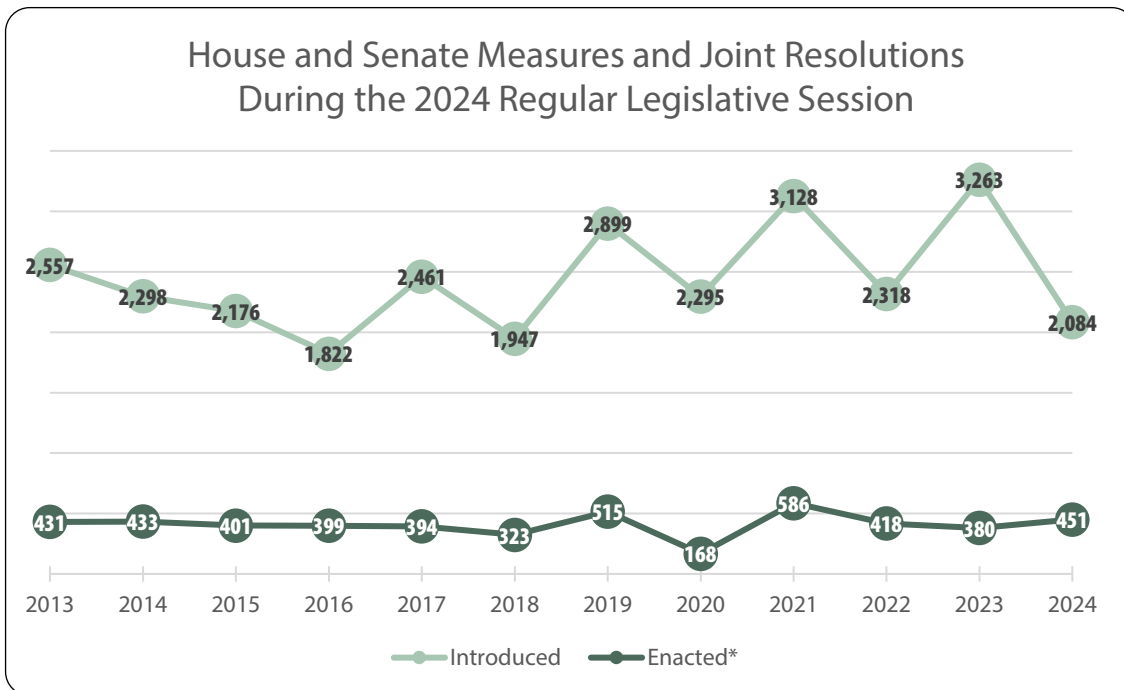
“Senate Bill 1759 would require persons who install more than a single individual sewage disposal system to first obtain certification from the Department of Environmental Quality. This additional layer of bureaucracy and governmental oversight is unnecessary. Oklahomans need less government, not more.” ■



Appendix II Legislative Production

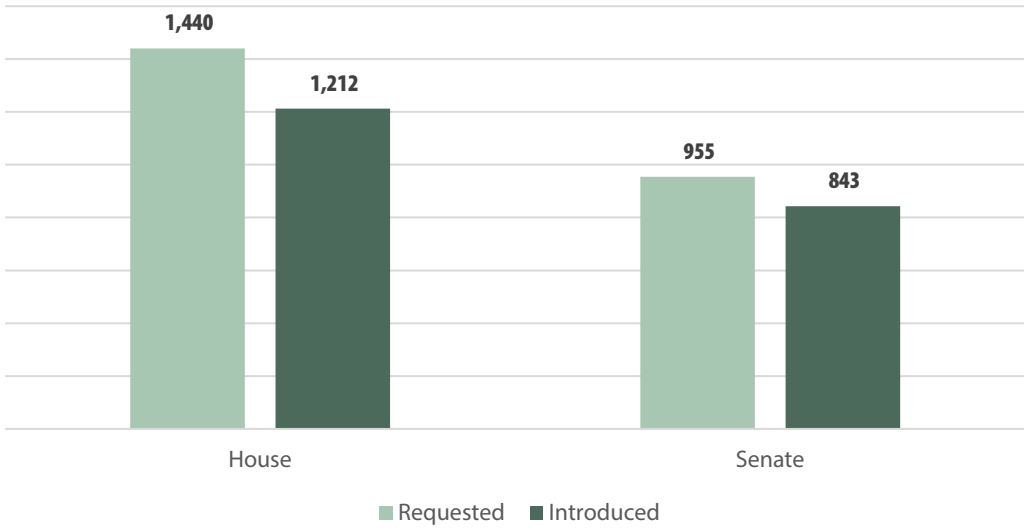
	House Bills	House Joint Resolutions	Senate Bills	Senate Joint Resolutions
Requested	1,440	15	955	24
Introduced	1,212	16	843	13
Sent to Opposite Chamber	444	6	302	3
Conference Granted	41	-	73	-
Sent to Governor	257	2	223	1
Approved by Governor	242	2	199	-
Filed with Secretary of State	3	-	2	2
Vetoed	13	-	20	-
Line Item Vetoed	-	-	2	-
Veto Override Attempts**	3	-	7	-
Law without Signature	2	-	2	-

**Override count includes bills that were successfully overridden in one chamber, but not the opposite chamber.



*The number of enacted measures are calculated by adding Governor-approved measures to those filed with the Secretary of State, and those that became law without the Governor's signature.

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Obscenity and child pornography; modifying scope of certain unlawful acts; making certain acts unlawful; penalty. **HB 3639**

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Criminal procedure; imposing statute of limitations on certain offense; modifying grounds for which certain prosecutions may be commenced; providing for retroactive applicability. Effective date. **SB 1658**

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Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board; records; increasing membership of the Board. **HB 3752**

Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision; modifying voting membership of Council. Effective date. **SB 1528**

Larceny; modifying period of aggregate crimes. Effective date. **SB 1877**

Medicaid fraud; statute of limitations; criminal procedure; adult sexual abuse; Racketeer-Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act; definition; Medicaid fraud; penalty; dollar threshold; felony and misdemeanor; fine and imprisonment. **HB 3668**

Professions and occupations; bail bondsmen; clarifying reimbursement for the transportation of defendants. Effective date. **SB 1941**

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Sentencing:

Community sentencing; authorizing court to order stay for revocation of driving privileges under certain circumstances. Effective date. **SB 1724**

Domestic abuse; modifying range of punishment for certain offense. Effective date. **SB 1211**

Driving under the influence; sentencing powers of the court; removing probation exception for felony DUI; applying probation eligibility consistently across all felonies. **HB 3960**

Felony offenses; classification; creating the Oklahoma Sentencing Modernization Act of 2024; classifications; punishment provisions; time-served requirements. **HB 1792**

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Religious or moral instruction; directing school district boards of education to adopt a policy regarding student participation in released time courses. **HB 1425**

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Schools; providing exemption from certain assessments for students over certain age who seek to complete twelfth grade. **SB 1307**

Schools; providing for excused absence of students receiving certain therapy or other services related to certain program. **SB 1527**

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Higher education; removing certain eligibility provision for certain state tuition aid grants; limiting certain incarcerated individuals. **SB 11**

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Long-term care; Oklahoma Health Care Authority; PACE program; agreements; enforcement; regulations; exemption; rules; Adult Day Care Act; Home Care Act; modifying definitions. **HB 3238**

Medicaid; adding provisions relating to recovery of expenses. **SB 1703**

Medicaid; modifying requirements for participation in certain premium assistance program; modifying certain authority of the Insurance Department. **SB 1752**

Medicaid; modifying various provisions of the Ensuring Access to Medicaid Act. **SB 1675**

Nonopioid alternatives; directing specified agencies to seek certain funding opportunities; granting certain protections relating to Medicaid coverage; broadening purpose of certain grants. Effective date. **SB 1344**

Oklahoma Health Care Authority; requiring portions of certain appropriated funds be used for certain purposes; directing Oklahoma Health Care Authority to implement increased payment for certain long-term care and intermediate care facilities for certain individuals. **SB 1134**

State-sponsored employee benefits; directing the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to administer state-sponsored benefits; removing requirement for certain bid acceptance. **SB 1310**

Health Department:

Birthing centers; eliminating license for birthing centers; modifying criteria for coverage of certain benefits; modifying definitions. Effective date. **SB 1739**

Childbirth; modifying grantmaking authority of State Department of Health under the Choosing Childbirth Act; stipulating additional reimbursable services. **SB 538**

Long-term care; Oklahoma Health Care Authority; PACE program; agreements; enforcement; regulations; exemption; rules; Adult Day Care Act; Home Care Act; modifying definitions. **HB 3238**

Nonopioid alternatives; directing specified agencies to seek certain funding opportunities; granting certain protections relating to Medicaid coverage; broadening purpose of certain grants. Effective date. **SB 1344**

Public health; increasing membership of the Advancement of Wellness Advisory Council. Effective date. **SB 1708**

Sexually transmitted infections; authorizing provision of expedited partner therapy under certain conditions; providing certain protections. Effective date. **SB 1491**

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Long-term care; modifying elements of employment eligibility. Effective date. **SB 1511**

Oklahoma Health Care Authority; requiring portions of certain appropriated funds be used for certain purposes; directing Oklahoma Health Care Authority to implement increased payment for certain long-term care and intermediate care facilities for certain individuals. **SB 1134**

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Medicaid; ensuring access to Medicaid Act; clarifying definition of Children's Specialty Plan. **HB 3367**

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Medicaid; modifying various provisions of the Ensuring Access to Medicaid Act. **SB 1675**

Medicaid; providing hospice coverage for Medicaid members; requirements for coverage. **HB 3980**

Nonopioid alternatives; directing specified agencies to seek certain funding opportunities; granting certain protections relating to Medicaid coverage; broadening purpose of certain grants. Effective date. **SB 1344**

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Practice of dentistry; modifying various provisions of the State Dental Act. Effective date. **SB 1929**

Sexually transmitted infections; authorizing provision of expedited partner therapy under certain conditions; providing certain protections. Effective date. **SB 1491**

Substance abuse services; clarifying applicability of certain liability protections; broadening the Good Samaritan Act. **SB 1740**

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Vision screenings; creating certain revolving fund; authorizing certain grants; directing maintenance of certain platform and data management system; establishing guidelines for electronic eye charts. **SB 1319**

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Medicaid; modifying requirements for participation in certain premium assistance program; modifying certain authority of the Insurance Department. **SB 1752**

Medicaid; modifying various provisions of the Ensuring Access to Medicaid Act. **SB 1675**

Nonopioid alternatives; directing specified agencies to seek certain funding opportunities; granting certain protections relating to Medicaid coverage; broadening purpose of certain grants. Effective date. **SB 1344**

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Insurance; allowing cancellation notices to be sent electronically by certain insurers. Effective date. **SB 1627**

Insurance; requiring notice following certain credential application determination. Effective date. **SB 1631**

Medicaid; ensuring access to Medicaid Act; clarifying definition of Children's Specialty Plan. **HB 3367**

Medicaid; modifying requirements for participation in certain premium assistance program; modifying certain authority of the Insurance Department. **SB 1752**

Pharmacy benefits management; modifying audit processes and requirements; modifying reimbursement rates. **SB 1670**

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Insurance Department:

Insurance Department; requiring certain persons and organizations to furnish adequate response within certain timeframe; Insurance Commissioner duties; Patient's Right to Pharmacy Choice Commission. **SB 542**

Insurance; creating the Insurance Data Security Act. **SB 543**

Insurance; reorganization; mutual insurer; stock insurer; Insurance Commissioner; mutual holding company; plan; foreign mutual insurance companies. **HB 3090**

Medicaid; modifying requirements for participation in certain premium assistance program; modifying certain authority of the Insurance Department. **SB 1752**

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Insurance; allowing cancellation notices to be sent electronically by certain insurers. Effective date. **SB 1627**

Insurance; reorganization; mutual insurer; stock insurer; Insurance Commissioner; mutual holding company; plan; foreign mutual insurance companies. **HB 3090**

Medicaid; adding provisions relating to recovery of expenses. **SB 1703**

Rates; excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory rate; penalties; hearing; due diligence search; filings; surplus lines licensee; broker; unfair settlement; third-party administrator; Insurance Commissioner. **HB 3091**

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Liability:

Medicaid; adding provisions relating to recovery of expenses. **SB 1703**

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Medical marijuana; clarifying provisions for the transfer of licensing following change of ownership. Effective date. **SB 1939**

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Medical marijuana; requiring an affidavit for license renewal under certain circumstance; testing. **SB 1635**

Medical marijuana; requiring owners and employees of medical marijuana licensed businesses to submit to criminal background checks. **HB 1734**

Licensing:

Medical marijuana; authorizing Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority to review applications and provide notice of approval or rejection to applicant. **SB 758**

Medical marijuana; clarifying provisions for the transfer of licensing following change of ownership. Effective date. **SB 1939**

Medical marijuana; packaging requirements; administrative fines for violations; pre-packaged form; display and smelling of marijuana. **HB 3361**

Medical marijuana; requiring an affidavit for license renewal under certain circumstance; testing. **SB 1635**

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Confidentiality; Tax Commission; district attorneys; Attorney General; release of information to the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority. **HB 3458**

Medical marijuana; authorizing Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority to review applications and provide notice of approval or rejection to applicant. **SB 758**

Medical marijuana; clarifying provisions for the transfer of licensing following change of ownership. Effective date. **SB 1939**

Medical marijuana; creating the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority Advisory Council. **HB 1349**

Medical marijuana; packaging requirements; administrative fines for violations; pre-packaged form; display and smelling of marijuana. **HB 3361**

Medical marijuana; requiring owners and employees of medical marijuana licensed businesses to submit to criminal background checks. **HB 1734**

Municipal/County Government:

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Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA):

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Medical marijuana; authorizing Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority to review applications and provide notice of approval or rejection to applicant. **SB 758**

Medical marijuana; clarifying provisions for the transfer of licensing following change of ownership. Effective date. **SB 1939**

Medical marijuana; creating the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority Advisory Council. **HB 1349**

Medical marijuana; packaging requirements; administrative fines for violations; pre-packaged form; display and smelling of marijuana. **HB 3361**

Medical marijuana; requiring an affidavit for license renewal under certain circumstance; testing. **SB 1635**

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Substance abuse services; clarifying applicability of certain liability protections; broadening the Good Samaritan Act. **SB 1740**

Workers' compensation; mental health-related injuries; exempting first responders from physical injury requirement for certain claim; providing for certain coverage for first responders. Effective date. **SB 1457**

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Military:

Soldiers and sailors; modifying certain definitions. Effective date. **SB 1345**

Tricare Reserve Select Reimbursement Program; mandating creating; definitions; eligible recipients; applicability; rulemaking; state military forces; state active duty. **HB 3673**

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Tricare Reserve Select Reimbursement Program; mandating creating; definitions; eligible recipients; applicability; rulemaking; state military forces; state active duty. **HB 3673**

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Oklahoma Veterans Commission; modifying and establishing certain procedures for appointment of members. **SB 1384**

Sales tax; eliminating certain deadline for qualification for veterans sales tax exemption. **SB 1215**

Soldiers and sailors; modifying certain definitions. Effective date. **SB 1345**

Veterans Homes; establishing State Veterans Home at Sallisaw; broadening allowed uses of certain proceeds. **SB 1707**

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Tax credits; clean-burning motor vehicle fuel property; reallocation of unused tax credits. **HB 3051**

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Motor vehicles; perfection of security interest; exception for certificate of title transfers; notice. **HB 3618**

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Health insurance; creating Corinne's Law; requiring coverage of standard fertility preservation services for certain enrollees of a health benefit plan; specifying terms of coverage. Effective date. **SB 1334**

Health insurance; creating the Ensuring Transparency in Prior Authorization Act; definitions; prior authorization; adverse determinations; consultation; reviewing physicians; utilization review entity; exception; retrospective denial; length of prior authorization; continuity of care; standard for transmission of authorization; failure to comply; severability. **HB 3190**

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Oil and Gas Produced Water and Waste Recycling and Reuse Act; modifying definition; excluding certain persons from liability. **SB 18**

Rebates; providing rebates for emission reduction projects; creating fund. **SB 1505**

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