



Oklahoma State Senate: Session Highlights

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Overview

The 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature opened with a discussion on providing relief to Oklahomans in the form of a tax cut. The Senate proposed eliminating the state’s portion of the grocery sales tax while the House of Representatives and Governor proposed an income tax cut. On February 22, 2024, the Senate passed HB 1955 and eliminated the state grocery sales tax. The

governor signed the measure on February 27, 2024.

Following the elimination of the state grocery sales tax, the Senate proceeded to incorporate the largest tax cut in state history into its newly formed budget transparency process. Over the course of several subcommittee and appropriations meetings, the Senate formed its budget and passed SR 31. This resolution served as the basis of budget negotiations with the House and Governor.

The Senate also considered the House and Governor’s proposal of an income tax cut. The passage of HB 1955, however, was deemed sufficient by the Senate. Additionally, the Senate noted that further cuts to revenue could potentially endanger previous efforts to build sufficient fiscal reserves. A judicial pay increase as well as a sizeable estimate to pay for deferred maintenance also factored into the Senate’s desire to sustain current levels of the income tax.

The Senate continued to hold this position going into the first public budget negotiations. After weeks of discussions, the Senate, House, and Governor arrived at an agreement. The Legislature authorized the creation of a business court system and that limited judicial pay to a 7% raise for district, associate district, and special district judges. The income tax rate was left unadjusted, a formula for deferred maintenance priorities was agreed to, and the Governor committed to signing the budget into law.

Appropriations Overview

SB 1125 (Hall/Wallace) is the general appropriations (GA) measure for FY'25. Appropriations were made to the following areas:

- 1) Education- \$5,598,130,521.00;
- 2) General Government and Transportation- \$1,315,300,414.00;
- 3) Health- \$2,229,770,622.00;
- 4) Human Services- \$951,327,415.00;
- 5) Natural Resources- \$354,565,927.00; and
- 6) Public Safety and Justice- \$1,037,701,894.00.

Education remained a prominent focus of the Legislature, with increased emphasis placed on job training. To that end, the Legislature appropriated \$28.59 million to CareerTech to expand its Skill Centers. Additionally, the GA bill provides \$2.5 million for teacher maternity leave as well as \$2.65 million for the purpose of paying student teachers in order to increase retention.

The Department of Transportation received an additional \$16.2 million to fund industrial and lake access roadways. The Legislature also appropriated an additional \$16.2 million to the Department to fund Tulsa's waterway and port improvements. The Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics received an additional \$44 million and \$16 million to fund airport investments and an engine cell test program respectively.

As for Health, the Legislature appropriated \$30 million to the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to provide a rate increase to long-term care providers. The Legislature also appropriated \$18 million to Human Services to fund the Choosing Childbirth program. The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services received an

additional \$18.5 million to fund children's crisis continuum of care programs.

The Department of Human Services received an additional \$45,502,466.00 to provide a rate increase to DDS providers. Additionally, \$3 million was appropriated to the Department to provide additional fund for DDS waivers.

The Oklahoma Historical Society received an additional \$1.5 million to fund the proposed Oklahoma Civil Rights Trail. Additionally, the Legislature appropriated an additional \$15,468,752.00 to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to provide a funding increase for water conservation programs. \$20 million was provided to the Oklahoma State University Veterinary Medicine Authority to fund the construction of an Animal Diagnostic Lab.

The Attorney General received \$10 million to fund domestic violence services and \$18 million to increase funding for county sheriffs. The Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET) received an additional \$1,174,755.00 to pay for raises and additional employees.

Finally, the Legislature appropriated \$350 million to fund various deferred maintenance projects as well as an additional \$200 million to fund various eight-year projects. The measure also provided for the funding of various capital projects using the Legacy Capital Financing Fund.

Appropriations Measures

SB 1122 (Hall/Wallace) directs the State Board of Education to spend its appropriations in the following manner:

- 1) Local and State-supported Financial Support of Public Schools: \$3,089,255,079.00,
- 2) Certified Employee Health Benefit Allowance: \$365,793,470.00,
- 3) Support Employee Health Benefit Allowance: \$204,211,359.00,
- 4) Teachers' Retirement Credit: \$35,000,000.00,
- 5) Purchase of Textbooks and Instructional Materials: \$45,190,000.00,
- 6) Public School Paid Maternity Leave Revolving Fund: \$2,500,000.00,
- 7) Student Teacher Compensation: \$2,650,000.00,
- 8) Alternative and High Challenge Education: \$14,000,000.00,
- 9) Education Leadership Oklahoma: \$4,500,000.00,
- 10) Advanced Placement Incentives: \$1,559,863.00,
- 11) Reading Sufficiency Act: \$17,500,000.00,
- 12) Required Assessments: \$13,405,685.00,
- 13) Street School: \$200,000.00,
- 14) Ag in the Classroom: \$38,000.00,
- 15) Imagine Math: \$1,400,000.00,
- 16) Imagine Reading: \$1,400,000.00,
- 17) Oklahoma Imagination Library Program: \$2,000,000.00,
- 18) Oklahoma Arts Institute: \$320,000.00,
- 19) Early Intervention: \$16,225,341.00,
- 20) Great Expectations: \$500,000.00,
- 21) Early Childhood Initiative: \$14,000,000.00,
- 22) School Lunch Matching: \$3,140,137.00,
- 23) Secure Schools Program: \$750,000.00,
- 24) Nationally Recognized Career Readiness Assessments: \$250,000.00,

- 25) Administrative and Support Functions of the State Department of Education: \$19,145,366.00,
- 26) Payroll, Salaries or Wages, Including Tax-sheltered Deferment Contracts and Longevity Payments Authorized by State Statutes: \$25,775,827.00,
- 27) Professional and Personal Services Contracts: \$31,840,048.00,
- 28) Other Operating Funds: \$4,011,390,979.00, and
- 29) Expenditure of Federal Funds: \$1,825,621,183.00.

The measure also transfers \$3,487,609.00 each to the Teachers' Retirement System Dedicated Revenue Revolving Fund and the School Consolidation Assistance Fund. Of the funds appropriated to Education Leadership Oklahoma, the measure directs that \$250,000.00 shall be allocated to the Oklahoma National Board Certification Revolving Fund and \$4.25 million shall be allocated to the Oklahoma School Psychologist, Speech-Language Pathologist, and Audiologist National Certification Revolving Fund.

SB 1125 (Hall/Wallace) is the general appropriations measure for FY'25. The measure provides an increase to long-term care provider rates as well as funds to reduce the waiting list for CareerTech programs. Additionally, the measure provides for a \$350 million investment into deferred maintenance projects, enough funding to provide an increase to judicial pay, and an increased budget for Higher Education.

SB 1126 (Hall/Wallace) authorizes the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents to establish a program for the education and training of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists. The program must meet accreditation requirements established by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs.

SB 1134 (Hall/Wallace) requires the Oklahoma Health Care Authority spend an additional \$30 million for provider rates at long-term care term care facilities and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

SB 1136 (Hall/Wallace) creates the Developmental Disability Services Revolving Fund to be managed by the Department of Human Services. Monies from the fund shall be used to fund the state share of the following home- and community-based services waivers: 1) The In-Home Supports for Adults Waiver; 2) The In-Home Supports for Children Waiver; 3) The Homeward Bound Waiver; and 4) The Community Waiver.

SB 1137 (Hall/Wallace) directs the Department of Human Services to expend monies from its general appropriations in the following manner:

- 1) \$3 million to provide Home- and Community-Based Services Waivers for persons with developmental disabilities;
- 2) An adequate amount to fund a 25% increase to provider rates relating to Habilitation Training, Intensive Personal Support, Homemaker, Agency Companion Pervasive, Advanced Restorative and Personal Care Services in the Community, Homeward Bound, In-Home Supports Waiver for Adults, In-Home Supports Waiver for Children and ADvantage Waivers;
- 3) An adequate amount to fund a 12.5% increase to provider rates relating to Daily Living Supports, Extensive Residential Supports and Alternative Living Group Home and their related respite in the Community and Homeward Bound Waivers; and
- 4) An adequate amount to provide an increase of 10% to the Adapted and Public

Transportation, Nursing, ADvantage Case Management, Adult Day, Agency Companion Close and Enhanced, Specialized Family Care, Group Home, Community Living Group Home, Remote Supports, Pre-Vocational Services, Employment Specialist, Job Coaching, Job Stabilization, and their related respite for these services.

The measure also directs the Department to maintain the funding levels for senior nutrition programs from the previous fiscal year and deposit \$5.6 million into the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Account. The measure appropriates all federal monies received by the state to fund the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant and the Child Care and Development Block Grant to meet the provisions of federal law relating to such grants.

SB 1183 (Hall/Wallace) appropriates \$56.25 million to the from the Oklahoma Capital Assets Maintenance and Protection Fund to the Office of Management and Enterprise Services. Monies appropriated to the Office in this manner shall be expended on a plan submitted to the Chair of the Appropriations Committee of the Oklahoma State Senate and the Chair of the Appropriations and Budget Committee of the Oklahoma House of Representatives. The plan shall be submitted by the Office not later than May 31, 2024.

SB 1184 (Hall/Wallace) appropriates \$12.5 million from the Oklahoma Capital Assets Maintenance and Protection Fund to the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department. Such funds shall be expended on properties within the state park system pursuant to a plan submitted by the Department to the Chair of the Appropriations Committee of the Oklahoma State Senate and the Chair of the Appropriations and Budget Committee of

the Oklahoma House of Representatives. The plan shall be submitted no later than May 31, 2024.

SB 1185 (Hall/Wallace) appropriates \$56.25 million from the Oklahoma Capital Assets Maintenance and Protection Fund to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Of the monies appropriated to the State Regents, \$39.375 million shall be expended on all 4-year colleges and universities except the University of Oklahoma located in Norman, Oklahoma, and Oklahoma State University located in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The measure provides that \$16.875 million shall be expended on 2-year institutions of higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education pursuant to a plan submitted by the State Regents to the Chair of the Appropriations Committee of the Oklahoma State Senate and the Chair of the Appropriations and Budget Committee of the Oklahoma House of Representatives. The plan shall be submitted no later than May 31, 2024.

HB 1955 (McCall/Treat) eliminates the 4.5% state sales tax on the retail sale of food and food ingredients. The measure also directs the Oklahoma Tax Commission to promulgate rules to implement the act in accordance with the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement.

HB 2923 (Wallace/Hall) provides a 7% raise for district, associate district, and special district judges.

HB 2891 (Wallace/Hall) authorizes the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority to utilize \$80 million from the Legacy Capital Financing Fund to construct, refurbish, or expand facilities for chemistry, biosciences, science, technology,

engineering, and mathematics degrees at the University of Oklahoma.

HB 2892 (Wallace/Hall) authorizes the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority to utilize \$80 million from the Legacy Capital Financing Fund to construct, or expanding engineering facilities at the University of Oklahoma.

HB 2893 (Wallace/Hall) authorizes the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority to utilize \$80 million from the Legacy Capital Financing Fund to construct, refurbish, or expand life science facilities at Oklahoma State University.

HB 2894 (Wallace/Hall) allocates \$30 million from the Legacy Capital Financing Fund to the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority for the benefit of the Oklahoma State University Medical Authority (OSUMA) to construct, refurbish, or expand OSUMA facilities.

HB 2895 (Wallace/Hall) authorizes the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation to utilize the Legacy Capital Financing Fund in the amount of \$27.5 million to construct, refurbish, or expand the OSBI headquarters and related facilities.

HB 2896 (Wallace/Hall) authorizes the Department of Public Safety to utilize the Legacy Capital Financing Fund in the amount of \$74 million to construct a centralized training center and related facilities.

HB 2925 (Wallace/Hall) transfers funds previously appropriated to the Office of the Attorney General for FY 2023 to the following funds:
1) \$4,550,000.00 to the Victims of Human Trafficking and Prevention Revolving Fund; and

2) \$7,896,567.00 to the Federal Overreach and Extraordinary Litigation Revolving Fund.

HB 2928 (Wallace/Hall) outlines spending limits for funds appropriated to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce for FY 2025:

- 1) \$229,945.00 to support the Community Expansion of Nutrition Assistance Program;
- 2) \$150,000.00 to the various Councils of Government to support substate planning;
- 3) \$36,221.00 to support the functions of community action agencies;
- 4) \$183,874.00 for Head Start programs;
- 5) \$64,217.00 for the Rx for Oklahoma Prescription Assistance program;
- 6) \$850,000.00 to support Small Business Development Centers; and
- 7) \$10,000,000.00 to fund a new STEM building at Rogers State University.

HB 2929 (Wallace/Hall) outlines spending limits for funds appropriated to the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services for FY 2025:

- 1) \$3,948,760.00 for annualization of the state portion of Medicaid rates;
- 2) \$18,500,000.00 for the continuum of care for children in crisis;
- 3) \$4,100,000.00 for implementation of potential consent decrees entered during the 2024 calendar year; and
- 4) \$500,000.00 to maintain five pilot programs to provide offenders incarcerated in county jails in the State of Oklahoma access to certain approved medication-assisted treatment.

Agriculture & Rural Affairs

SB 941 (Bullard/Burns) provides substantial change to the Department of Wildlife's license schedule for all areas of wildlife recreation. This includes increases for both fishing and hunting licenses, ranging from

daily-use licenses to lifetime licenses. The increases are for both nonresidents and resident hunters. Licenses for use in a commercial hunting area are established for nonresidents, allowing for nonresidents only hunting in a commercial hunting area to obtain such license instead of a regular hunting license.

SB 1200 (Stephens/McCall) establishes Central Standard Time in Oklahoma as the standard time. The measure also exempts the State of Oklahoma from participating in daylight savings time if it is established federally.

SB 1424 (Howard/Pfeiffer) provides that all operators subject to the provisions of the Oklahoma Registered Poultry Feeding Operations Act shall be responsible for obtaining and maintaining all educational requirements. Additionally, the measure provides that compliance with a Nutrient Management Plan shall be deemed as compliant with Best Management Practices. The measure stipulates that any administrative penalty assessed against an operator shall be solely used to fund enforcement of the Act. The maximum fine for failing to comply with the provisions of the Act is increased from \$200.00 to \$1,000.00. The measure provides that any operator who fails to take action to avoid pollution of any stream, lake, river, or creek shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of \$500.00 to \$10,000.00 and/or a maximum term of imprisonment of 6 months. The measure authorizes the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry to assess an administrative fee of \$10,000.00 for each day of noncompliance with provisions of the user's nutrient management plan that has led to pollution of any stream, lake, river, or creek.

Business & Commerce

SB 1447 (Kristen Thompson/Osburn) establishes two separate divisions within the Oklahoma Department of Commerce: the Division on Economic Development, Growth, and Expansion (EDGE) and the Division on Community Outreach and Revitalization Enterprise (CORE). Each division will coordinate distinct objectives to fulfill the Department's mission. EDGE shall coordinate the use of public monies used for economic development. CORE will coordinate long-term development in communities to enhance their economic opportunities. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce will also be referred to as the Chief Executive Officer of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce moving forward.

SB 1492 (Hall/Moore) establishes new licenses within the Oklahoma Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act to allow for mortgage broker and lender licensees to provide their services virtually. A license fee schedule is provided based on an annual assessment of loan volume. Those providing their services virtually shall maintain certain security features as provided by state and federal law similar to those who provide their services in person.

SB 1939 (Paxton/Echols) provides further clarity for a medical marijuana business license holder. These provisions allow for a holder to obtain multiple licenses under certain circumstances, further expanding provisions for renewal, and tightening the process by which a license may be transferred. A medical marijuana business license holder seeking to transfer their license to another individual shall be required to seek approval by both the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control and the Oklahoma

Medical Marijuana Authority prior to any transfer of license, product, or property. The conditions by which either agency may approve or deny the transfer are laid out as well as what the individuals seeking to transfer or receive transfer are permitted to do during the process.

SB 1959 (Alvord/Hasenbeck) 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 to the website 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 the harmful material via that subscription. The measure provides that a commercial entity which performs reasonable age verification methods shall not be held liable for allowing access to its website. The Attorney General is allowed to seek injunctive relief against a commercial entity that fails to comply.

SB 2001 (Coleman/Hays) defines "straw testing", a means by which employees may test an alcoholic beverage prior to service without being in violation of employee drinking prohibition during work hours. The measure further allows for educational tastings for employees during work hours whereas they would previously be allowed to participate only outside of work hours, allowing for employees to be compensated

for the training. Educational tastings by employees are limited by frequency of tastings, the amount which they may test, and types of alcoholic beverages that may be consumed during an educational tasting.

Education

SB 362 (Pugh/Baker) creates the Statewide Literacy Revolving Fund for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Subject to availability of funding, the bill directs the State Regents to use the fund to implement training in the science of reading in accredited teacher preparation programs. The measure also directs the State Regents to use the fund to support teacher preparation programs in developing and implementing a micro-credential in the science of reading for certified teachers employed by school districts. The measure renames the Reading Sufficiency Act the Strong Readers Act. The measure directs each student in kindergarten through third grade to be screened for reading skills at the beginning, middle, and end of each school year. The bill provides screening instrument exemptions to students who participate in the Oklahoma Alternative Assessment Program, students whose primary expressive or receptive communication is sign language, students whose primary form of written or read text is Braille, or students whose primary expressive or receptive language is not English who have been identified as an English language learner and who have had less than one school year of instruction in an English learner program. It modifies the interventions to be provided to students who are not meeting grade-level targets. It directs kindergarten through third grade students who exhibit a deficiency in reading at any time to receive an individual reading intervention plan within thirty days. The bill requires a third-grade student who is identified at any point in the year as having a significant reading deficiency to be provided intensive intervention services until he or she demonstrates proficiency at his or her grade level. The bill removes language prohibiting the automatic promotion to fourth grade of a student who

has not shown evidence of reading proficiency, and it removes good-cause exemptions for promotion. It modifies school district and State Department of Education reporting requirements. It directs a parent or legal guardian of a student in kindergarten through third grade to be notified if the student is not reading at grade level. The bill directs school districts that receive a certain amount of funding to provide science of reading training for certified personnel. It modifies requirements for summer academies to allow students in kindergarten through third grade to attend. The measure directs the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability, rather than the State Board of Education, to ensure that certain reading competencies are included in the competencies for special education teachers. It directs early childhood, elementary, and special education teachers be provided training in remediation strategies in the science of reading. It also requires teacher candidates enrolled in early childhood education, elementary education, or special education to pass a comprehensive assessment administered by the Commission to measure their teaching skills in the area of reading. It also directs candidates for alternative placement or emergency teaching certificates to complete instruction in the science of reading.

SB 1256 (Pugh/Baker) modifies provisions regarding the granting of advanced, lead, and master teaching certificates. It removes the requirement for a school district to provide certain matching funds for salary increases for teachers that are granted advanced, lead, and master teaching certificates. It directs the state to provide the increased salary amounts from lottery funds. The measure exempts from collective bargaining the selection criteria; the designation of advanced, lead, and master

teachers; and any associated salary increases.

SB 1328 (Gollihare/Vancuren) modifies eligibility for the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program, also known as Oklahoma’s Promise. It provides eligibility for students who have completed a core curriculum and seek admission to a technology center school.

SB 1521 (Pemberton/Dick Lowe) modifies the School Resource Officer Program, a three-year pilot program created in 2023. It directs participating districts to give first priority to employing or contracting with a law enforcement officer who is assigned by an employing agency, but it allows a district to employ or contract with a retired law enforcement officer or a licensed armed security guard if a law enforcement agency is unwilling or unable to provide a law enforcement officer. It states that if such an individual is employed or contracted, the law enforcement agency that serves the area in which the district is located must preauthorize such an individual and the school must require a background check on the individual. The measure directs the law enforcement agency to provide an authorized individual with access to the agency’s radio system and a police band radio system to be used in the performance of his or her duties. It allows funds from the School Security Revolving Fund to be used to cover the cost of the radio system.

SB 1522 (Pemberton/Tedford) modifies the purposes for which a school district’s building fund may be used to include purchasing school buses. It allows redbud school grants allocated from the State Public Common School Building Equalization Fund to be used for the same purposes for which a building fund can be used. It also repeals a duplicate section relating to the

powers and duties of the State Board of Education.

SB 1904 (Pugh/Stinson) allows a statewide virtual charter school or a school district operating a full-time virtual education program to administer student assessments in grades three through eight in a virtual setting that best meets the needs of the students. It prohibits the administration of assessments to students in grades nine through twelve in a virtual setting. If a virtual charter school or school district operating a full-time virtual program chooses to do so, the bill directs that certain requirements be followed, including that the student take the assessment on an assigned date and time, that the student attend a synchronous assessment session, and that a certain student-to-proctor ratio remain below a certain level. It directs a statewide virtual charter school or a school district operating a full-time virtual education program to take into account a student’s individualized education program or Section 504 Plan in deciding whether a virtual setting best meets the needs of the student.

SB 1921 (Rosino/Culver) modifies the Chase Morris Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act to require athletic coaches, school nurses, and athletic trainers to annually complete training in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). It also requires each public school to develop a sudden cardiac emergency response plan. The bill also modifies the Zachary Eckles and Luke Davis Automated External Defibrillators in Schools Act to direct school districts that make AEDs available in schools or on school property to use guidelines established by a nationally recognized organization in determining the placement and maintenance of the AED.

Energy & Telecommunications

SB 1505 (Paxton/Boles) expands the provisions of the Oklahoma Emission Reduction Technology Incentive Act to include projects reducing emissions from downstream oil and gas projects as well as refining projects. The definition of Emission Reduction Project is also expanded to include the installation of systems and/or equipment to reduce the per barrel consumption of energy. The measure directs the Department of Environmental Quality to create an expenditure preapproval process for rebate applicants and creates a separate revolving fund for rebating downstream activities.

HB 2197 (Dick Lowe/Paxton) modifies the provisions around temporary provisional water permits to allow extensions for those issued for oil and gas purposes. It allows for renewal of the permits not to exceed three renewals for those in the industry. The bill requires permit holders to report their annual water use, provide explanation for any nonuse of allocated water, and parameters for failure to report. There are additional provisions added to give the Oklahoma Water Resources Board more authority when cessation of water use is necessary for a permit holder.

HB 2367 (Townley/Rader) reforms procedures within the Corporation Commission to allow flexibility for Corporation Commissioners to meet and discuss certain actions, processes, and matters before the agency. There are strict limitations prohibiting them from discussing legislative proceedings, cases before the Commission, or appropriations to the agency. The measure sets a sunset date in 2026 to ensure that the measure is operating in line with legislative intent. As it currently stands, the Corporation Commissioners are

unable to be in the same room without a meeting notice in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act. The Commissioners are unable attend informal meetings, staff meetings, seminars, or other events as a collective.

HB 3863 (Ford/Kristen Thompson) expands the utility deposit exemption for victims of domestic violence to allow for verification to come from a domestic violence shelter or program representatives of a federally recognized Indian tribe.

General Government

SB 518 (Paxton/Lepak) requires voters signing a petition to place a measure on the ballot for the next election to sign using his or her legal name. The measure also authorizes the Secretary of State to charge a filing fee not to exceed \$750.00 to cover the cost of publication of notice as it relates to filing a petition. The notice must be published on the Secretary's website. Notice of such filing shall be provided to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The time period to protest a petition is increased from ten days to twenty days after publication.

SB 1617 (Kristen Thompson/Pfeiffer) allows municipalities to amend existing plats to remove an illegal discriminatory restrictive covenant and declares all illegal discriminatory restrictive covenants non-enforceable. Any illegal discriminatory restrictive covenant contained in an existing plat is extinguished and severed from the plat.

SB 1854 (Weaver/Kannady) prohibits the establishment of unauthorized camps on state-owned lands, making it a misdemeanor punishable by an up to \$50.00 fine and/or up

to fifteen days in county jail. Any first time violators shall be issued a warning. The citation may not be issued unless the person refuses assistance offered to them by the arresting officer, including transportation to a shelter, food pantry, or other place where resources are made available to help the homeless.

HB 1449 (Hasenbeck/Garvin) defines father, mother, female, male, man, woman, natural person, and sex. The measure defines sex as a natural person’s biological sex at birth and provides that any policy or statute that prohibits sex discrimination to forbid unfair treatment of females or males in relation to members of the opposite sex. The measure authorizes the state and political subdivisions to establish distinction between sexes when such distinctions are substantially related to an important government objective. It clarifies that “equal” does not mean the same or identical when referring to sex, and that differentiating between the sexes shall not be construed as treating the sexes unequally. It also directs the state, any political subdivision, and any state agency or department that collects vital statistics to include the identification of any natural person in the collected data as either male or female.

Health & Human Services

SB 538 (Treat/Echols) amends the Choosing Childbirth Act, which provides grants to private organizations through a grant-supervising entity to fund services that support pregnant women and improve maternal and infant health outcomes. The changes are designed to increase the program’s efficiency and address payment issues by requiring the State Department of Health to issue grants directly to the service-providing organizations while continuing to

issue grants through the grant-supervising entity. The measure also expands reimbursable services to include obstetric ultrasounds, behavioral health care, transportation assistance, and telecare services.

SB 1319 (Seifried/Newton) creates the Public School Vision Screening Modernization Revolving Fund and authorizes the State Department of Health (OSDH) to award grants from the fund to assist schools in obtaining vision screening equipment, collecting screening data, and acquiring other services related to statutorily-required vision screenings. The bill also authorizes schools to use electronic eye charts in place of printed charts to assess relative visual acuity. Finally, the measure directs OSDH to maintain a HIPAA-compliant, cloud-based platform to collect and analyze vision screening data, subject to availability of funding.

SB 1344 (Rosino/Josh West) implements measures to increase availability of nonopioid drugs for the treatment of pain. The bill allows grants under the Political Subdivisions Opioid Abatement Grants Act to be spent on educational and health services related to nonopioid alternatives, requires the appropriate agencies to assist political subdivisions with development of these services, and directs the agencies to seek additional funding opportunities for nonopioid alternatives. The measure also protects nonopioid alternatives from being disadvantaged on the Medicaid drug formulary relative to an opioid or narcotic drug for management of pain. This follows a nationwide trend of clinicians shifting toward less harmful, less addictive clinical interventions for pain management in the wake of the opioid epidemic.

SB 1385 (Stanley/Lawson) allows the use of remote supports such as telephone or video feeds in the delivery of home- and community-based services (HCBS) to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, with the goal of improving access to services. The measure also establishes and strengthens criminal background check requirements for HCBS providers to ensure the safety of service recipients.

SB 1491 (Stanley/Roe) allows health care professionals to provide expedited partner therapy (EPT) for treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). EPT involves providing antimicrobial drugs to the partner of a patient diagnosed with an STI without having to physically examine the partner. EPT is considered an effective, low-risk public health intervention and a tool to curtail rising STI rates. The bill limits EPT to a single course of treatment, and it may only be provided if the partner can be identified and contacted by the patient and if the provider believes the partner is unlikely to present for treatment.

SB 1675 (McCortney/McEntire) amends the Ensuring Access to Medicaid Act to strengthen protections for health care providers participating in the Medicaid managed care program. The measure directs the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to contract with at least one payor owned by providers (if the organization qualifies) and extends the rate floors for provider reimbursement until July 1, 2027. The bill also bolsters protections against claim denials and requires timely completion of prior authorization requests, reviews of adverse determinations, and provider credentialing.

SB 1709 (Rosino/Echols) transfers two oversight divisions within the Department of

Human Services to other state agencies: the Office of Client Advocacy will move to the State Department of Health and the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman will move under the Office of the Attorney General. This legislation was a response to the widely reported scandal at the Greer Center involving disturbing incidents of abuse of the facility's disabled residents by care staff. Systemic failures in oversight and leadership allowed the abuse to continue for months, resulting in the Legislature directing the relocation of the offices.

SB 1739 (Kristen Thompson/McEntire) eliminates the state license for birthing centers. To provide a pathway for birthing centers to receive Medicaid reimbursement, the measure directs the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to seek federal approval for birthing centers to receive reimbursement if accredited by the Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers (CABC). Similarly, the bill updates an existing insurance coverage mandate for licensed birthing center services to instead apply to CABC-accredited centers.

SB 1740 (Gollihare/Boatman) clarifies, strengthens, and harmonizes statutory liability protections for administration of emergency opioid antagonists (such as naloxone) to people experiencing an opioid overdose. In response to the opioid epidemic, Oklahoma has passed laws designed to expand access to opioid antagonists and broadly allow their usage. This measure shields first responders and the public from liability for a good-faith attempt to save someone's life.

HB 2330 (Boatman/Daniels) repeals the Psychiatric and Chemical Dependency Facility Certificate of Need Act. The law prohibited establishment or expansion of psychiatric or chemical dependency

facilities and units without approval from the State Department of Health. State certificate of need (CON) laws were intended to control health care costs and ensure new facilities would meet an actual community need, but in recent years several states have moved to repeal or limit CON laws over complaints that they stifle competition and fail to improve access, quality, or cost of health care.

HB 2872 (Wallace/Rosino) creates the Out-of-Network Ambulance Service Provider Act, which establishes minimum rates of reimbursement by health care benefit plans to out-of-network ambulance service providers. The rates will be equal to the rates set by a local governmental entity or, if no such set rate exists, the lesser of 325% of the current Medicare rate or the service provider's billed charges.

HB 3449 (Boatman/Haste) creates the University Hospitals Authority Behavioral Health Workforce Development Fund to fund a pilot program designed to bolster the state's behavioral health workforce and expand access to services. The measure also expands the Oklahoma State University Medical Authority's behavioral health workforce pilot program to include psychiatric and psychological postgraduate training as well as certain scholarships, grants, and other assistance for mental health nurses and social workers. In addition to these uses, the pilot programs will be used to increase bed capacity at behavioral health facilities and upskill the workforce.

HB 3556 (Kendrix/Howard) makes participation in the state's health information exchange (HIE) voluntary for health care providers. The HIE is a health information system that connects patient records between health care providers and

facilities for the purpose of enhancing care coordination and improving patient outcomes; it is particularly useful during medical emergencies. The state HIE was established in 2021 utilizing a nonprofit entity that had operated its own system since 2010, and a law was passed in 2022 requiring all health care providers to report data to and utilize the HIE, subject to broad exceptions provided by law and rule. Despite the lax exceptions, the mandate was met with constitutional issues, so the Legislature decided to make participation voluntary.

HB 3781 (Duel/Pugh) enacts the PA Licensure Compact. The compact is intended to allow for greater license portability across states and make it easier for PAs to relocate to Oklahoma to practice. Under the compact, a PA licensed in their home state can request a privilege to practice in a remote state from the compact commission, undergo an FBI background check, and be granted a compact privilege in the selected state(s). With passage of this legislation, Oklahoma joins eleven other states who have signed onto the PA Licensure Compact. Now that the necessary number of states have enacted the compact, it has been activated and is currently in the implementation stage.

Judiciary

SB 325 (Daniels/Duel) modifies the time frame as it relates to the initial court appearance after a person is charged with a crime and held in jail. The measure provides that such a person must be brought to trial within nine months instead of one year. Additionally, the measure provides that the court must hold a review within three months, instead of four months as provided for in current law, if it determines the defendant's right to a speedy trial was

violated. If the case is still pending after the three-month period, the court must conduct another review as soon as practicable. The measure directs the court to consider whether a court reporter was available. Additionally, the court shall consider granting a continuance to allow the prosecution additional time to prepare in a felony case if the court enters specific findings that additional time is justified due to exceptional circumstances if a delay occurred.

SB 468 (Howard/Kannady) creates the Oklahoma Uniform Electronic Estate Planning Documents Act. The measure shall apply to all electronic non-testamentary estate planning documents and electronic signatures on non-testamentary estate planning documents unless the document specifically precludes electronic signatures. The measure specifies that principles of equity applicable to a non-testamentary estate planning document shall apply to an electronic non-testamentary estate planning document unless specified otherwise in the measure. No electronic signature may be denied legal effect or enforceability solely because it is in electronic form. Any document that must be notarized or witnessed may be used if an individual authorized to perform the notarization, acknowledgment, verification, or oath attaches or logically associates the individual's electronic signature on the document together with all other information required to be included under law. A person may create a certified document by affirming under penalty of perjury that the paper copy is a complete and accurate copy of the document. Electronic documents may be used in evidentiary proceedings.

SB 1456 (Treat/Kannady) directs the Court of Civil Appeals to establish the Court of

Existing Claims (CEC) Division. The newly created division shall replace the three-judge en banc panel of the Workers' Compensation Court of Existing Claims and have jurisdiction over all workers' compensation claims filed prior to February 1, 2014. The judge of the newly created division shall be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court from a list of retired judges on a rotational basis. The measure directs the CEC to contract with the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission to pay for the integration, maintenance, and upgrade of the system. Any party to a hearing on a claim for compensation before the CEC trial judge or the CEC Division shall be entitled to the services of a court reporter. The measure also redesignates the Workers' Compensation Administrative Fund to the Workers' Compensation Court of Existing Claims Administrative Fund (CECAF).

SB 1601 (Rosino/Kannady) creates the Uniform Unregulated Child Custody Transfer Act. The measure prohibits the current guardian of the child from transferring custody to another person with the intent, at the time of the transfer, to abandon the rights and responsibilities concerning the child unless such transfer is made through adoption or guardianship, a judicial award of custody, placement using a child-placing agency, or other judicial or tribal actions. No person may knowingly receive a child's custody unless it is through the listed methods. Any person who violates this provision shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. The measure provides that if the Department of Human Services reasonably believes that a person has transferred or will illegally transfer custody of a child, the Department is authorized to conduct a home visit. No person may solicit or advertise to identify a person to which to make an illegal transfer of custody, identify

a child for an illegal transfer of custody, or act as an intermediary in such an exchange.

SB 1658 (Garvin/Echols) establishes a twenty-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 1701 (Brooks/Kannady) creates the Oklahoma Standby Guardianship Act. The measure provides for a parent to execute a written designation of a standby guardian at any time. The written designation transfers the authority of the parent to a guardian acting as a qualified parent unless otherwise specified in the written designation. The designation shall not take effect until the specified triggering event occurs, and the designee has received the parent's written consent. A triggering event is specified in a court order or written designation and shall commence at the beginning of a deportation proceeding or deportation of the qualified parent, whichever occurs first. The measure also establishes procedures for assuming guardianship.

SB 1756 (Seifried/Lepak) requires the court to make a written determination of the fitness of a volunteer who shall observe and oversee visitation. The determination shall include a national criminal history record check conducted by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, 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 to determine the fitness of the volunteer. Such a volunteer shall see and hear all interactions between the supervised parent and the child. The measure provides that 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 and until the supervised parent has submitted a non-self-reporting psychological evaluation to the court.

SB 1786 (Kristen Thompson/Kannady) strikes language prohibiting a student athlete from earning compensation in exchange for his or her athletic performance in intercollegiate athletics. The measure adds language providing that representation may be provided to an athlete if the collegiate athletic association does not prohibit it. The measure authorizes a contract using the name or likeness of an athlete to extend beyond the student athlete's participation in the sport at the institution if the contract is between the student athlete and the postsecondary institution or a third party authorized to act on behalf of the postsecondary institution.

SB 1835 (Treat/Echols) creates the Oklahoma Survivors' Act. The measure provides that during a hearing to sentence an offender or accept a plea of guilty, the court must 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 offence 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. The measure provides that other

evidence outlined in the measure may be provided. 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 shall depart from the applicable sentence ranges outlined in the measure. This departure shall not apply to an offense that requires the defendant to register as a sex offender, an attempt to conspire to commit an offense that would require registry, offenses relating to child abuse, or offenses resulting in the defendant receiving the death penalty. The measure provides for retroactive sentencing to comply with the provisions of the measure. 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 (Floyd/Wallace) creates the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) Board within the Office of the Attorney General. The Board shall examine the process for gathering and analyzing sexual assault kits, develop a plan for prioritizing untested kits, identify procedures for the testing of anonymous sexual assault evidence kits, identify grants and other funding sources, and develop a comprehensive training plan for equipping and enhancing the work of law enforcement, prosecutors, victim advocates, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, and multidisciplinary Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) across all jurisdictions. SAFE is authorized to request and obtain a copy of all records and reports pertaining to sexual assault forensic evidence and shall maintain all confidential records as confidential. The measure directs the Board to submit an annual statistical report on the incidence of sexual assault forensic evidence collection as well as a

summary of the activities of the Board relating to the review of sexual assault forensic evidence collection and an evaluation of whether the state is efficiently discharging its sexual assault forensic evidence collection responsibilities. SAFE shall consist of seventeen members, who shall serve without compensation but shall receive travel reimbursements.

Public Safety

SB 1211 (Kristen Thompson/George) eliminates language providing for increased prison terms for subsequent convictions. The measure increases the maximum term of imprisonment for persons convicted of assault and battery by strangulation or attempted strangulation against an intimate partner or a family or household member to ten years. A person convicted of assault and battery by strangulation or attempted strangulation shall serve a term of imprisonment of not less than one year and not more than ten years.

SB 1280 (Weaver/Manger) provides that combining fentanyl with any other controlled dangerous substance shall subject violators to the same term of imprisonment and fine levied against persons found to have manufactured or attempted to unlawfully manufacture any controlled dangerous substance. The measure also specifies that such individuals shall be imprisoned in the custody of the Department of Corrections.

SB 1291 (Bergstrom/Humphrey) shortens the period a licensed carrier may renew his or her handgun license from three years to thirty days after the expiration of the license. The measure also provides for electronic application for renewal of the license. If an applicant completes an electronic application for renewal, he or she must

submit a passport-sized photograph with the application.

SB 1735 (Daniels/O'Donnell) provides that any person who intends to commit a crime who enters an area of a commercial business that is reserved for personnel of the commercial business or clearly marked with a sign or signs that indicates to the public that entry is forbidden shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Such persons shall be subject to a term of imprisonment in the county jail for up to one year and/or a fine of not more than \$500.00. A second or subsequent conviction is a felony punishable by up to two years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$1,000.00.

SB 1877 (Daniels/O'Donnell) modifies the period considered for aggregate crimes of larceny. The measure expands the period from ninety days to one hundred eighty days.

Retirement & Insurance

SB 102 (Garvin/Bashore) increases the multiplier used to calculate the final average salary for retired police officers within the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System from 2.5% to 3%. The measure establishes guidelines to phase-in the multiplier increase. The disability benefit multiplier also increases to 3% under the measure. To increase contributions into the System, the bill increases the minimum contribution for participating municipalities to 14% from 13% for each participating member, and the minimum contribution for participating members from 8% to 9%.

SB 1310 (McCortney/Sneed) transfers the self-administered state benefits (HealthChoice) from OMES to the Oklahoma Health Care Authority for administration. OMES maintains the ability

to receive, negotiate, and accept bids for other insurance options for state employees, and maintains the Employees Group Insurance Division as a whole.

SB 1334 (Seifried/Josh West) establishes Corrinne's Law, which requires health insurance to cover fertility preservation services, such as egg and sperm retrieval, for insured patients who undergo chemotherapy and are at risk for infertility due to the treatment. This is only for those who are of reproductive age and who undergo a medically necessary treatment that may cause such infertility.

SB 1457 (Treat/Kannady) establishes mental injury or illness as a stand-alone compensable injury for first responders and law enforcement. The measure establishes parameters around the compensation to be received, disability retirement awards, and limitations on pharmaceutical benefits.

HB 1979 (Hilbert/Haste) establishes framework for prepaid vision plan operations to ensure that the Insurance Department has proper regulatory authority over the plans. The measure establishes a number of consumer protections to ensure accurate advertisement, reimbursement, and provider relationships.

Finance

SB 1399 (Hall/McBride) creates a revolving fund to provided for deferred maintenance projects. The measure creates the Oklahoma Capital Assets Management and Protection Board and requires the development of five-year plans for projects related to state parks, higher education, and state-owned properties. Provides a \$50 million sales tax apportionment beginning in FY'29.

HB 3351 (McEntire/Kristen Thompson) provides an income tax credit to faculty preceptors training medical students and residents, physician assistant students, and APRN students. The tax credit is paid through licensing fees on those professions.

HB 3388 (McCall/Treat) provides that Oklahoma Parental Choice tax credits shall be exempt from taxable income. The measure provides that if the total amount of credits awarded exceeds the amount allocated to the tax credit then the Oklahoma Tax Commission shall give preference to applicants whose combined adjusted gross income is below \$150,000.00. Applicants with a combined adjusted gross income below \$75,000.00 shall not be required to reapply for the credit. The measure specifies that the application period for the credit shall open on February 15 preceding the school year for which the application is made. Additionally, the measure allows students that attend an accredited private school that exclusively serves homeless or financially disadvantaged students to receive the less of the maximum \$7,500.00 credit amount or the cost to educate the student. Credits claimed by a taxpayer shall not be used to offset delinquent tax liability, accrued penalty or interest from the failure to file a report or return, accrued penalty or interest from the failure to pay a state tax, tax liability of the taxpayer from any prior tax year, or any debt with the Oklahoma Tax Commission. Taxpayers using Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or SoonerCare may bypass some income verification requirements. The measure grants priority consideration to applicants with an income of \$150,000.00 or less if the application is submitted within the first sixty days of the application period.

HB 3959 (Echols/Treat) provides Quality Jobs Incentive Payments to major sports

leagues with at least \$10 million in payroll. Entities must meet the same requirements as those in the Quality Jobs Program and the payments cannot exceed the net benefit rate to the state, but, unlike the Quality Jobs Program, the incentive payments do not expire after ten years.

Aeronautics & Transportation

SB 1429 (Haste/Miller) redesignates the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System Infrastructure Revolving Fund to the Oklahoma Ports Infrastructure Revolving Fund (OPIRF). This revolving fund will allow for public and private ports in this state, after review and approval of the request by the Transportation Commission, to utilize the monies to enhance the safety and efficiency of Oklahoma's commercial waterways as well as repair, improve, or construct waterway or industrial park infrastructure at waterway ports. The measure provides that 10% of funds within the new OPIRF will be reserved for emergency repairs to ports or waterway infrastructure.

SB 1766 (Hall/Kerbs) lowers the age a person may qualify for the permit to operate farm vehicles from fifteen to thirteen and a half 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. The measure directs Service Oklahoma to publish a schedule for the subsequent calendar year of courses and trainings to become designated examiners, as well as available slots for such courses and trainings. Such courses and trainings shall occur no less than twice per year. The

measure also creates a four-year driver school license and establishes a fee of \$100.00 for such a license.

SB 1912 (Haste/Miller) adds references to vertiports to the Municipal Airports Act, reflecting changes and innovations in the aerospace industry. The measure authorizes the Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics to create a statewide system plan for the siting and construction of and the partnerships required for vertiports and associated infrastructure in order to integrate advanced air mobility (AAM) and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) into Oklahoma's air transportation ecosystem. The measure also authorizes the Department to enter into partnerships with political subdivisions of the state to invest in and create AAM and UAS infrastructure.

SB 2035 (Treat/Hilbert) creates a new system for temporary license plates on vehicles sold in Oklahoma. Authorized temporary license plate vendors shall be required to provide pre-printed temporary license plates to licensed vehicle dealers, provide a method for dealers to enter purchaser information for each vehicle purchase, and a way to submit such information to Service Oklahoma every twenty-four hours. The measure also requires seller or purchaser of a vehicle to complete pre-registration of the vehicle by submitting documentation to Service Oklahoma or a licensed operator within two days of the purchase.

Veterans & Military Affairs

SB 1215 (Stanley/Josh West) eliminates the deadline for veterans to register with the veterans registry to qualify for the disabled veterans sales tax exemption. Veterans already claiming the exemption that had missed the deadline would not be able to

requalify for the exemption with the old statutory provisions.

SB 1384 (Stanley/Josh West) modifies the requirements and procedures for appointment of members to the Oklahoma Veterans Commission. Six of the nine seats on the Commission are appointees from lists of names submitted by specific veterans' service organizations (VSOs). The VSOs are required by law to submit certain information about their organizations in order to be eligible to submit their names. This measure allows, in those cases of noncompliance, for the Governor to appoint an at-large member in lieu of a member representing the VSO only for the duration of that term, after which it reverts to the VSO's seat as long as they come into compliance and submit the necessary information. The bill also lessens and simplifies the submission requirements for VSOs in order to make compliance easier and less costly, and gives them two extra months to submit the required information.

SB 1707 (Hamilton/Kannady) establishes the Sallisaw Veterans Home in statute. The Sallisaw Veterans Home will replace the Talihina Veterans Home. The measure provides for the transfer of operations and funds from Talihina to Sallisaw and directs the proceeds from the sale of the Talihina property to be used for operations at the Sallisaw Veterans Home.

HB 3673 (Miller/Stanley) creates the Oklahoma Tricare Reserve Select Reimbursement Program under which the Military Department of the State of Oklahoma may award grants to assist eligible recipients with payment of Tricare Reserve Select premiums for themselves and their dependents. Eligible recipients include members of the state military forces who are serving on state active duty. When National

Guard personnel are on federal active duty for thirty days or more, they go on Tricare Premium, which pays all costs. However, for Tricare Reserve Select members who are on *state* active duty orders, this does not apply and personnel continue paying premiums out of pocket. This measure provides state military personnel with some financial assistance for health care costs when they are called up.

Veto Overrides

SB 60 (Daniels/Kendrix) extends the sunset date for the Board of Chiropractic Examiners from July 1, 2023, to July 1, 2026.

SB 102 (Garvin/Bashore) modifies the term “accrued retirement benefit” as it relates to the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System to mean 3% of the member’s final average salary multiplied by the member’s years of credited service not to exceed thirty years. Additionally, the measure provides that disability benefits shall be calculated using 3% of the member’s final average salary multiplied by twenty years or 3% of the member’s final average salary multiplied by thirty if the officer has served for more than twenty years. The measure also increases the minimum amount of contribution a member shall make from 8% to 9% of his or her salary. The measure outlines how such benefits shall be calculated based on when the member retires and the years of service accrued by such a member. Employer contribution is also increased to 14%. Additionally, it expands the term “nonfiscal retirement bill” to include any measure that increases the municipal contribution, employee contribution, or both for members of the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System.

SB 1438 (Rader/Fetgatter) provides that a company primarily in the business of renting heavy equipment property located in this state may include as a separate line item on the rental invoice a recovery fee of 1.25% on the rental charge from any item of heavy equipment property rental by a customer. Revenues from the fee may be used to pay personal property taxes. This fee shall not be applicable to equipment rented to the federal government, any federally recognized Indian tribe, the state, or any municipality or county. The recovery fee shall not be subject to state or local sales taxes.

HB 1712 (Marti/Garvin) prohibits any health benefit plan, health maintenance organization (HMO), preferred provider organization (PPO), or other provider network from refusing coverage to an insured for durable medical equipment and supplies as prescribed by a health care provider, regardless of whether they are in-network or out-of-network, unless there is an Oklahoma-licensed in-network provider within a fifteen-mile radius of the patient’s five-digit ZIP code that can provide an in-person evaluation for the prescribed medical equipment or supplies. The measure excludes health benefit plans offered by contracted entities that provide coverage to members of the state Medicaid program. When an insured utilizes an out-of-network health care provider, the provider shall be reimbursed at the same rate and benefit level for the provided services as an in-network provider.

HB 1979 (Hilbert/Haste) prohibits any agreement between an insurer or prepaid vision plan and a vision care provider from requiring a provider to provide services or materials at a fee limited or set by the insurer or prepaid vision plan unless the services or materials are reimbursed as covered services or covered materials under

the contract. The measure also prohibits insurers and prepaid vision plans from providing nominal reimbursement or advertising services and materials to be covered with additional copay or coinsurance in order to claim that services and materials are covered services and materials if the health benefit plan or prepaid vision plan does not reimburse for the services or materials. The measure prohibits prepaid vision plans from affecting the pricing of noncovered services or materials as well as from using extrapolation to complete an audit of a vision care provider. Such plans are also prohibited from incentivizing patients to receive vision care services at an entity owned wholly or in part by the plan or subsidiaries of the plan. The measure requires such plans to provide standard reimbursements for all lenses with the same design, quality, and composition. The measure prohibits any agreement between an insurer and a vision care provider from requiring a provider to participate with or be credentialed by any specific prepaid vision plan as a condition for participation in the health care network of the insurer. The measure clarifies that if a provider is credentialed by the plan that re-credentialing shall not be considered as recontracting with the plan. Additionally, the measure requires insurers offering a health benefit plan or prepaid vision plan which provides coverage for services rendered by a duly licensed physician or osteopath to provide the same reimbursement for services to optometrists as allowed for those services rendered by physicians or osteopaths. Insurers seeking to alter an agreement with a vision care provider must follow certain steps outlined in the measure. Agreements between providers and insurers or prepaid plans shall not limit the provider's choice of sources and suppliers of services or materials or use

of optical labs provided by the vision care provider to an enrollee.

HB 2687 (George/Pemberton) provides that commissioned or CLEET-certified agents of the Office of the Attorney General and the Military Department of the State of Oklahoma shall participate in the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System (OLERS) upon meeting the requisite post-offer-preemployment standards. The measure provides that such changes to membership in the System shall be considered a nonfiscal retirement bill and not subject to the provisions of the Oklahoma Pension Legislation Actuarial Analysis Act. Such persons shall participate in the System beginning July 1, 2024.