

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Association of Central Oklahoma Governments ★ February 25, 2016



9-1-1/Public Safety

HB3126 | 9-1-1

Rep. Cockroft (R-Tecumseh) and Sen. Jason Smalley (R-Stroud) HB3126 passed the House yesterday 57-34, and now heads to the Senate. The bill would increase the wireless fee from 50 cents to 75 cents, and provide for accountability and transparency by changing the advisory board into the Oklahoma 9-1-1 Management Authority. The entity would mandate annual reporting and auditing and escrow 9-1-1 fees at the state level for local jurisdictions that do not comply. It would also develop a plan for Next Generation 9-1-1. The Office of Emergency Management (OMES) would house and provide staff support for an E9-1-1 Coordinator, a position funded through an increase in fees.

HB2747 | Blue Alert

Rep. Richard Morrisette (D-OKC); Sen. Kyle Loveless (R-OKC) HB2747 creates the Oklahoma Blue Alert Act and directs the Department of Public Safety to develop and implement a statewide blue alert system to rapidly disseminate useful information to statewide media outlets when a law enforcement officer has been killed or injured and law enforcement is searching for a suspect connected to the incident.

SB1240 | Safety

Sen. Mike Mazzei (R-Tulsa) HB1240 would allow towns and cities to create public safety protection districts.

Transportation

HB2596 | Transit

Rep. Richard Morrisette (D-OKC) HB2596 would create the Oklahoma Mutual Transit Authority.

SB977| Natural Gas

Sen. Mike Mazzei (R-Tulsa) SB 977, the two year tax credit moratorium, will not be heard on the Senate floor. Sen. Clark Jolley (R-Edmond) filed an amendment to remove the natural gas tax credits out of the bill. The bill would have suspended 23 tax credits including credits that also benefitted **historic preservation, firefighters and medical research.**

SB1337| Clean Burning Motor Fuel

Sen. Wayne Shaw (R-Grove) and Rep. Doug Cox (R-Tulsa) SB1337 has passed out of Finance. The bill amends the expiration date of vehicle and infrastructure incentives to December 31, 2017.

Economic Development

SB1188| Commerce

Sen. Kyle Loveless (R-OKC) HB1188 would consolidate the Oklahoma Departments of Commerce and Tourism into one state agency creating the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

SB1510| Culture

Sen. Anastasia Pittman (D-OKC) SB1510 will create the Cultural District Development Act. Cities

may become certified by the Oklahoma Arts Council as cultural districts.

SB1316 | Public-Private Partnerships

Sen. John Sparks (D-Norman) and Rep. Scott Martin (R-Norman) SB1316 would create the Oklahoma Public and Private Facilities and Infrastructure Act; clarifies scope of eminent domain use; provides procedure and requirements for proposals for qualifying projects; requires adoption of certain guidelines; provides approval process for qualifying projects and authorizes governmental entities to enter into certain contracts, etc.

REAP | Cuts

Governor Fallin's budget calls for a 6 percent cut to the Rural Economic Action Program.

Rural

HB2841 | Healthcare

Rep. Jonathan Echols (R-OKC) Although HB2841 failed in committee it started an important conversation in the legislature about dwindling options for primary health care in rural Oklahoma. The bill would have given nurse practitioners the authority to practice in Oklahoma without a collaborative agreement with a physician.

HB2824 | Schools

Rep. Lee Denney (R-Cushing) HB2824 would consolidate some of Oklahoma's rural elementary schools and would eliminate some administrative positions.

HB2500 | Water

Rep. John Pfeiffer (R-Mulhall) and Sen. Ron Justice (R-Chickasha) HB2500 would allow ODEQ to contract with the Oklahoma Rural Water

Association for technical assistance programs to rural water and wastewater systems.

HB1168 | Gardens

Rep. Shane Stone (D-OKC) HB1168 would require the Oklahoma Tax Commission to develop an online website to list the location and availability of public and private land to be used as community gardens.

Taxes

SB1073 | Reversal

Sen. Mike Mazzei (R-Tulsa); A Senate committee cleared SB1073 which would reverse a 0.25 cut in the state income tax rate.

Local Control

SB 1289 | Ordinances

Sen. Josh Brecheen (R-Coalgate) withdrew SB 1289 before it was scheduled for review by the General Government Committee. The bill would have prevented any municipality from passing a law that went beyond what is set by state law. It would have stripped local governments of the ability to write ordinance for their communities.

HB1462 | Immigration

Sen. Ralph Shortey (R-OKC) HB1462 would prohibit municipalities and local law enforcement agencies from enacting policies to refrain from prosecuting undocumented immigrants.

Of Interest

Fracking Bans

Governor Fallin signed a bill into law on February 19, that prevents Oklahoma towns and cities from banning fracking.

Deadline

The deadline for all bills to be heard is today – Thursday, February 25.

Voluntary Pay Cuts

Rep. James Lockhard D-Heavener) has formally suggested Oklahoma lawmakers and the governor take a voluntary pay cut since schools and state agencies face such deep cuts based on the \$1.3 billion budget shortfall.

Historic Guthrie Redevelopment

The State of Oklahoma has entered into negotiations with a private group that would redevelop the State Capital Publishing Co. Building in historic downtown Guthrie as a senior living center with a micro-museum dedicated to the structure's past.

Important Dates

Oklahoma Association of Regional Councils Conference **March 3-4**

Municipal Day at the Capitol **March 8**

GIS Day at the Capitol **March 10**