

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Association of Central Oklahoma Governments ★ March 31, 2016



Budget Crisis News

Total Shortfall has grown from \$900 million to \$1.3 billion.

DHS

DHS will lay off 1,200 employees and postpone state supplemental payments. Approximately 88,000 people will be impacted.

Rainy Day

The legislature approved using Rainy Day funds to help the Oklahoma Departments of Education and Corrections during the economic downturn. SB1572 appropriated \$51 million to Education. SB1571 appropriated \$27.6 million to Corrections.

More Agency Cuts

In early March, state agencies learned about another 4 percent funding cut across all agencies. In January, Governor Fallin announced departments would see 3 percent cuts, but the need for deeper cuts was cited based on a higher-than-expected revenue shortfall.

Lawsuits

48 Oklahoma school districts including Oklahoma City, have filed a lawsuit asking the Oklahoma Supreme Court to order the Oklahoma Department of Education to correctly calculate state aid for what was due to the districts between 1992 and 2014.

Viral Post | Noble, OK

The owner of Tiffany's Restaurant, Noble, Oklahoma, announced on Facebook that he would feed anyone struggling between paying their bills and feeding their family until they are able to make ends meet. The post, which has received more than 4,000 shares, was in response to Oklahoma's revenue failures and specifically, cuts to DHS.

Medicaid Cuts

A controversial bill, HB2665, would have cut Medicaid coverage to 111,000 Oklahomans; however, the Senate version of the bill failed to pass in committee.

let's fix this.*

Grassroots Movement

A grassroots movement, "Let's Fix This," has formed on Facebook with a goal to fix the state's budget crisis. More than 300 people are signed up to attend an informal advocacy day at the capitol during which citizens are encouraged to meet with legislators about budget cuts to education, healthcare, child welfare, mental health corrections, transportation and more. The event is scheduled for 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., April 27, Oklahoma State Capitol, Room 412-A.

Upcoming Deadlines

April 21: Third Reading in Opposite House Deadline.

May 27: Legislature will adjourn Sine Dine no later than 5 p.m.

9-1-1/Public Safety

HB1221 | Kari's Law

AUTHORS: Peterson, David

Creates Kari's Law requiring business owners or operators to allow direct access to 9-1-1 services; requires configuration of the system to provide notification to the business owner or operator to be notified if a person dials 9-1-1.

Kari's law was named in honor of a Texas woman stabbed to death in a hotel bathroom while her 9-year-old daughter tried unsuccessfully to dial 9-1-1, not knowing she needed to dial "9" first to get an outside line.

HB1950 | 9-1-1

AUTHORS: Watson, Marlatt; Brumbaugh

Underground facilities; relating to damages to underground facilities; requirements; damages; updating statutory language; States that an excavator must immediately contact 9-1-1 emergency telephone services when any damage occurs to an underground facility and the incident must be reported within 24 hours. ACTIONS: Senate meeting set for April 1, 3 p.m., State Capitol, Room 230; Energy Committee; Senate set on Senate Floor Agenda for April 22.

HB3126 | 9-1-1

AUTHORS: Cockroft, Smalley

Creates the 9-1-1 Management Authority Act; defines terms; sets composition of members; mandates the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management to provide legal, administrative, fiscal and staff support for the Authority.

If HB3126 becomes law, the Office of Emergency Management (OMES) would house and provide staff support for an E Coordinator,

a position funded through an increase in fees.

SB828 | 9-1-1

AUTHORS: Christian, Allen, Bass, Brinkley, Fields, Griffin, Jolley, Loveless, Marlatt, Shortey, Sparks, Standridge and Treat

Creates the 9-1-1 Management Authority Act, which includes the Oklahoma 9-1-1 Management Authority; which includes a governing board to oversee development and regulation of 9-1-1 emergency systems in the state and management of the distribution of all 9-1-1 telephone fees. The bill outlines the authority's composition, its powers and duties. It imposes a 50-cent 9-1-1 telephone fee and how it should be used.

Rural

HB1402 | Fire

AUTHORS: Smalley, Pfeiffer

Amends language pertaining to the Rural Fire Protection Program Fund Act; modifies requirements of coordinators examining certain financial assistance applications and provides deadlines. Senate laid over March 30; laid over; not heard in Agriculture and Rural Development; Meeting set for April 6, State Capitol Room 419-C, Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. Senate laid over; not heard in committee.

HB2824 | Schools

AUTHOR: Denney

HB2824 failed in committee. The bill would have consolidated some of Oklahoma's rural elementary schools and would eliminated some administrative positions.

SB1336 | Hospitals

AUTHORS: Crain, Murdock

Permits a hospital or two or more hospitals located within a county or adjacent counties, and a

municipality to jointly create a public trust and subsidiary districts for the purposes of submitting to voters of each such county the question of whether to impose a tax for the financial support of hospitals within each district.

Transportation

AF Tax Credits

None of the bills ACOG Clean Cities was tracking regarding tax credits made it past the last legislative deadline. However, legislators have stated that changes to tax credits, possibly including alternative fuel tax credits, are part of ongoing budget discussions. Many ACOG Clean Cities stakeholders are speaking with their legislators about the tax credit's role in maintaining the industry's growing economic impact in our state. Fact sheets, talking points or other materials for discussions with your legislators, are available. Contact Eric Pollard, ACOG Clean Cities, (405) 778-6175 or epollard@acogok.org.

SB1317 | CNG Weight

SB 1317 allows for CNG and LNG trucks to exceed gross vehicle weight limits by 2,000 lbs. Reported Do Pass from House Transportation Committee

HB2622 | AF Rules

HB 2622 authorizes Dept. of Labor to issue alternative fuel trainee licenses. Modifies alternative fuels installation certification per location to \$1,000 and an annual renewal of certifications per location to \$250 for each dispenser meter at public CNG stations not to exceed \$1,000 per location. Referred to Senate Energy Committee

Economic

Development

SB1316 | Public-Private Partnerships

AUTHORS: Sparks, Martin

SB1316 would create the Oklahoma Public and Private Facilities and Infrastructure Act.

The legislation would clarify scope of eminent domain use; provide procedure and requirements for proposals for qualifying projects; require adoption of certain guidelines; provide approval process for qualifying projects and authorize governmental entities to enter into certain contracts, etc.
UPDATE: Engrossed to House, March 16.

Local Control

SB154 | Bidding Act

AUTHORS: Mulready, David

Pertains to the Public Competitive Bidding Act of 1974; increasing trust funds to \$75,000 for construction or labor contacts if the trustee finds that an emergency exists; Laid over by House on March 25; House meeting set for April 8, Room 412-C

SB1060

Engineering Districts

AUTHORS: Allen and Faught

Gives the circuit engineering district the authority to establish financing and lease purchase agreement program for road machinery and equipment to be utilized by participating counties. Referred to Appropriations and Budget.



Roll With Central Oklahoma  May is Bike To Work Month

Of Interest

Turnpike News

The preliminary route for the Southwest Kilpatrick Extension was presented to the public on Tuesday. Visit DrivingForwardOk.com to view an aerial map.

SB1342 | Transparency

AUTHORS: Treat, Newell
Modifies the Taxpayer Transparency Act. It modifies the definition of "expenditure of state funds" to the term "expenditure of funds" and amends the definition to include state and federal funds. It requires that the Open Books 2.0 website include data which track the expenditures of federal funds by program for the fiscal year 2017 and each fiscal year thereafter. Passed the House Government Oversight and Accountability Committee.

Important Dates

May is Bike Month. ACOG would like to receive "Throwback Thursday" pictures taken of local officials riding their bikes when they were kids and teens. Send your picture to John Sharp, jmsharp@acogok.org. They will be featured on ACOG's Bike To Work Facebook page. Thank you!

Open Streets OKC, 12-3 p.m., April 3. Located on Northwest 23rd Street between Western and Robinson and Northwest 23rd to Northwest 30th Streets along Walker Avenue.

ACOG is gearing up for Ozone Alert Day Season. The season typically runs from May to September.

