

ACOG LEGISLATIVE REPORT

MARCH 2023

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LEGISLATIVE DEADLINES – APRIL 2023



- Thursday, [April 6](#), 2023 – Deadline for SBs out of Subcommittee
- Thursday, [April 13](#), 2023 – Deadline for SBs out of Standing Committee
- Wednesday, [April 19](#), 2023 – Deadline for SBs out of full A&B Committee
- Thursday, [April 27](#), 2023 – Deadline for Third Reading of Bills and Joint Resolutions from Opposite Chamber

MAJOR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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COMPREHENSIVE TAX REFORM

While ACOG, in principle, is in favor of a fair and reasonable taxation policy, our municipal member governments are highly concerned that **removal of the state sales tax on groceries will precipitate a political movement to eliminate the municipal sales tax on groceries, as well.**

Please note that cities in Oklahoma are predominately dependent on sales tax revenue for operations. Likewise, Oklahoma is the only state in the US that does not allow municipalities access to ad valorem tax revenues, which places our cities at a distinctive economic disadvantage in comparison to municipalities in other states. **Therefore, ACOG is requesting that the Legislature take a comprehensive approach to tax reform and relief by addressing all potential revenue components, including sales and ad valorem tax and income tax structure for the state.**



COMMONSENSE LEGISLATION

For decades local governments have fought an ongoing battle to prevent unfunded mandates and restrictions on local authority that both the state and federal governments frequently enact.

EMINENT DOMAIN

ACOG strongly opposes [HB 2191](#) due to the proposed legislation limiting a municipality's authority to use eminent domain, which effects local government economic development and future growth.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

ACOG strongly supports [SB 495](#) that prevents passage of unfunded mandates, thus creating a commonsense litmus test for all future legislation.

DIVERSIFY MUNICIPAL FUNDING

ACOG supports [HB 2234](#) which would eliminate sales tax fraud by renewing sale for resale tax exemptions annually rather than the current three-year schedule.

MAJOR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



PUBLIC SAFETY: OKLAHOMA 911 MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

ACOG conditionally supports HB 1590, which will fund the cutting-edge Next Generation 911 technology for the state and increase the monthly 911 telephone fee from .75 cents to \$1.25 for any device that dials 911.

AMEND LEGISLATION

In 1994, ACOG founded the 911 Institute of Oklahoma to offer emergency dispatchers a top quality, affordable, and nationally accredited alternative to expensive out-of-state training. In the past decade, the Institute has trained over **1,200 dispatchers**, taught over **225 classes** and more than **550 dispatchers** have received national certifications through our classes. As the major source for training dispatchers for **29 years**, the 911 Institute of Oklahoma is viewed as the expert and model for 911 training for the entire state. Therefore, ACOG would like to amend the language in **HB 1590 Section 1 B, Line 2 to read as follows: "911 Management Authority shall coordinate and collaborate with the 911 ACOG Training Institute in regard to call and dispatch training curriculum."**



HB 1590 proposes raising the monthly 911 telephone fee from **75 cents to \$1.25** on any device that dials 911.

APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS



RURAL ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN (REAP)

REAP provides grants to small communities, towns, counties, and other organizations serving populations under 7,000 that have little or no funding capabilities. REAP grants can be used to fund much needed capital improvements for infrastructure and public facilities, road and street construction, and equipment for health and public safety.

FY 2024 RECOMMENDATION

Increase REAP funding by **\$14 million**, which by statute will distribute equal REAP allocations of **\$4 million** to all 11 Oklahoma Councils of Government (COGs).



FISCAL IMPACT

\$14 million above current allocation of **\$30 million**.



There are currently **539 municipalities** in Oklahoma under 7,000 in population (**90%** of all Oklahoma municipalities).

APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS



RURAL FIRE DEFENSE + WET HYDRANT PROGRAM

The Rural Fire Defense Program supports and equips rural fire departments in protecting lives and property of rural Oklahomans. Oklahoma Rural Fire Defense (RFD) Coordinators annually assist close to **875 fire departments** across the state with training, grant writing, inventory and equipment support, including the proposed Rural Fire Wet Hydrant Program (WHP). Funding for the WHP will install wet hydrants and assist RFD with water distribution.

FY 2024 RECOMMENDATION

RFD: Increase Rural Fire Defense Coordinator Contracts to **\$100,000** per all 11 Oklahoma COGs.

WHP: **\$250,000** for the pilot program to purchase distribution hydrants.

FISCAL IMPACT

RFD: **\$300,000** above current allocation of **\$800,000**.

WHP: **\$250,000** to purchase **70-80 hydrants** statewide.



State funding for the Rural Fire Defense program has declined from about **\$75,000** per COG to **\$72,727** in FY 2023.



APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS



SUBSTATE PLANNING DISTRICT PROGRAM

The Substate Planning District Program allows Oklahoma's 11 designated Substate Planning Districts (COGs) to provide planning and technical assistance to local governments. Oklahoma COGs are the primary resource for many local governments to apply for federal and state grants, coordinate efforts to develop capacity to attract business investments, job creation, and make the delivery of governmental services more effective. Increased Substate funding is necessary for COGs to continue to provide essential intergovernmental services to local governments in their Districts.

FY 2024 RECOMMENDATION

Increase Substate planning funding to **\$50,000** per each of the 11 Oklahoma COGs and make it a line-item in the State budget through the **Oklahoma Department of Commerce**.



FISCAL IMPACT

\$402,600 above current allocation of **\$147,400**.



Substate funding has declined from **\$50,000** to its current level of **\$13,400** for FY 2023.

FIREARM BILLS

HB 1001 - Olsen
HB 1021 - Olsen
HB 1782 - Williams

OTA BILLS

HB 2262 - Sterling
HB 2264 - Sterling
HB 2606 - Humphrey
HB 2728 - Menz

LOCAL AUTHORITY BILLS

HB 2786 - Munson

TAX RELIEF BILLS

HB 1275* - McCall
HB 1276* - McCall
HB 1444 - Provenzano
HB 2086 - Echols
HB 2447 - May

MARIJUANA BILLS

HB 1014 - Olsen
HB 2797 - Stinson

OPEN MEETING ACT BILLS




HB 2399 - Kannady

911 & PUBLIC SAFETY BILLS

HB 1590 - Grego
HB 1897 - Cantrell
SB 492 - Paxton

WATER RESOURCES BILLS

HB 2313 - Hilbert
SB 165 - Dahm
SB 659 - Murdock

 *Support*
 *Oppose*
 *Monitor*
**Shell Bill*

AIR QUALITY BILLS

HB 1330 - Strom

HB 1892 - Cantrell

HB 2099 - Bennett



HB 2245* - Dobrinski

SAFETY BILLS

HB 1022 - Olsen

REAP PROGRAM BILLS

HB 2508 - Fugate

 *Support*
 *Oppose*
 *Monitor*
**Shell Bill*

NEXT STEPS



- Monitor Bills
- Visit Legislators
- Email a “Call to Action” to our Board members on various relevant legislative issues

QUESTIONS?

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ASSOCIATION OF
CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
GOVERNMENTS

