

# ACOG FINAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

MAY 2025

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acog

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- Sine Die Adjournment - Friday, May 30, 2025



# KEY LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS



ACOG **supported SB 650 (Paxton)** which proposed a shift in public policy on Sanitary Sewer Operation by rewarding municipalities that are meeting certain maintenance and operational standards with liability protection from nuisance-based tort claims.

**STATUS: DORMANT. Did not pass Oversight Committee to continue to the House floor for a vote.**

ACOG **supported HB 1374 (Boles)** which would have allowed private industry to produce electricity only for itself to avoid regulation as a public utility. The measure could have opened the door for billions of dollars in new economic development across Oklahoma. The bill is particularly relevant as the demand for energy rises due to growing investments in manufacturing and AI data centers in the Midwest and Southeast.

**STATUS: DORMANT. Passed the Senate Energy Committee, but did not make it to Senate Floor Agenda.**

ACOG **supports SB 352 (Gollihare)** which **gives the power of eminent domain to a gas distribution utility in addition to electric utilities.** This would mean natural gas companies could install pipes over the objection of a private landowner. **There may be situations where this would make it easier for a microgrid to develop a project in Oklahoma.**

**STATUS: DORMANT. Did not make it out of the House Oversight Committee before deadline.**

## RURAL FIREFIGHTER REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT REPORTS ONLINE

**HB 1052 (Kelley)** requires all fire chiefs of municipal fire departments, fire protection districts, and volunteer fire departments to utilize the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) to submit incident reports. The measure also requires fire-related burn injuries and death reports to be submitted within 48 hours of the incident.

ACOG **opposes** this bill because it is impractical as these volunteers must return to their full-time jobs after responding to emergencies. Additionally, many rural fire chiefs rely solely on their cell phones for administrative tasks, making electronic reporting difficult. Currently, these reports are completed annually on paper, a system that aligns with the needs of rural fire departments.

**STATUS: Became law without the Governor's signature on May 7.**

## CHANGES TO LEGISLATIVE MUNICIPAL ZONING REGULATIONS & RESTRICTIONS

ACOG **opposes** SB 647 (Frix) which would lessen the authority of a municipality's zoning authority. **This filed bill would impose detailed procedural requirements for zoning and land use decisions, which would limit a municipality's flexibility to make decisions based on local priorities and contextual needs.** It also de-emphasizes the role of comprehensive plans which could hinder cities and towns from aligning with their visions for growth.

**STATUS: A special conference committee was named – with three ACOG Senators as members – and we sent them an email outlining why we oppose this proposed legislation. Conferees could not agree – this bill is DORMANT.**

## AMENDING NO TEXTING WHILE DRIVING

ACOG **supports** the amendatory language in **HB 2263 (Miller)** which clarifies that it is **unlawful for any driver to send, read, or compose a text message while driving** and increases the fees for fines and costs to law enforcement.

**STATUS: Vetoed by the Governor on May 13.**



## ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON ISSUING GROUNDWATER PERMITS

ACOG **opposed SB 133 (Burns)** that would place a moratorium on groundwater permits since the studies conducted by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board are a lengthy process and **this filed bill does not set up a realistic timeline for a study to be conducted, therefore leaving property owners and municipalities in limbo.**

**STATUS: DORMANT.** This proposed bill was never placed on the House floor agenda for a vote.

# LEGISLATIVE WATCHLIST



## LOCAL AUTHORITY





**SB 694 (Alvord)** would have prohibited municipal territory from being detached if it: included an intervening strip less than four rods wide; is separated from corporate limits of a municipality only by a railway right-of-way; is a highway right-of-way adjacent to or contiguous with a municipality; or includes properties that will be split in two. The measure would have allowed the state, county, political subdivision, or governmental entity that would assume responsibility over the proposed detached territory to give written consent.

**STATUS:** **Vetoed by the Governor on May 10.**

## ODOC EFFICIENCY

**SB 987 (Thompson)** creates the Oklahoma Department of Commerce Board and provides qualifications for the Board.

**STATUS:** **Signed by the Governor on May 9.**

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

## REGULATORY REFORM

**SB 473 (Rader)** directs any entity that receives funding from the Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) to develop a plan to measure the qualitative effects of at least two projects that were funded through REAP. Affected entities are required to submit the report to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce by January 1, 2028.

**STATUS:** Became law without Governor's signature on May 15.

## 911 & PUBLIC SAFETY

**SB 405 (Alvord)** authorizes county commissioners to work with ambulance service districts to reduce certain costs.

**STATUS:** Became law without Governor's signature on May 12.

**SB 1067 (Rosino)** allows ambulance service providers or their affiliated local governments to annually submit approved rates to the Insurance Department. Minimum rates will be the lower of the submitted rate or 325% of the Medicare rate. The Department must create a public rate database by January 1, 2026, and submit a review report by January 1, 2027.

**STATUS:** Became law without Governor's signature on May 28.

 *Support*

 *Oppose*

 *Monitor*

 *Shell Bill*

## COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**SB 249 (K. Thompson)** this bill extends the expiration date for tax incentives provided by the Oklahoma Tourism Development Act to January 1, 2032.

**STATUS:** Became law without Governor's signature on May 7.

**SB 287 (Pugh)** this bill extends the sunset date of the aerospace engineers and employers tax credits through 2031.

**STATUS:** Bill becomes law without Governor's signature on May 29.

 *Support*

 *Oppose*

 *Monitor*

 *Shell Bill*



# DORMANT LEGISLATION





## TAXES

HB 1024 - Bashore

HB 1519 - Banning

HB 2229 - Munson

SB 119 - Green

SB 241 - Thompson

SB 239 - Wingard

SB 628 - Daniels

SB 1123 - Standridge

SJR 12 - Deevers

## FIREARMS

HB 1358 - Olsen

HB 2822 - Steagall

SB 84 - Sacchieri

## 911 & PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 2710 - Ford

## OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITY

HB 1050 - Dollens

HB 1051 - Dollens

HB 1069 - Gann

HB 1152 - Banning

SB 347 - Hicks

SB 400 - Coleman

SB 404 - Stewart

SB 433 - Weaver

SB 467 - Alvord

SB 468 - Alvord

SB 651 - Stanley

 *Support*

 *Oppose*

 *Monitor*

 *Shell Bill*

## OPEN RECORDS

HB 1409 - Crosswhite-Hader

SB 622 - Howard

SB 1097 - Standridge

## BIOSOLIDS & OTHER SUBSTANCES

HB 1726 - Shaw

SB 268 - Jett

SB 3 - Green

SB 2710 - Rader

## ENERGY DIVERSIFICATION

SB 93 - Prieto

SB 119 - Green

SB 241 - Thompson

## 911 & PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 1907 - Alonso-Sandoval

SB 206 - Woods

## OTHER REGULATORY REFORM

HJR 1003 - Jenkins

HB 1008 - Murdock

HB 1106 - Manger

HB 1156 - Cornwell

HB 1450 - Shaw

HB 1451 - Shaw

HB 1452 - Shaw

HB 1813 - Newton

HB 1817 - Newton

HB 2162 - Dobrinski

SB 259 - Howard

SB 484 - Standridge

SB 613 - Boren





SB 914 - Howard

SB 1008 - Murdock

## RURAL FIRE

HB 1098 - Hardin

SB 708 - Hines

-  Support
-  Oppose
-  Monitor
-  Shell Bill

## 911 & PUBLIC SAFETY

SB 58 - Weaver

## RURAL FIRE

HB 1078 - Smith

HB 1425 - Smith

HB 1426 - Smith

HB 1631 - Sneed

SB 432 - Frix

## MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

HB 1637 - Sneed

HB 2230 - Munson

SB 35 - Hicks

SB 55 - Nice

## COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HB 1345 - Eaves

HB 2019 - Pae

HB 2236 - Munson

SB 151 - Mann

SB 820 - Boren

SB 923 - Nice

SB 938 - Kirt

 *Support*

 *Oppose*

 *Monitor*





 *Shell Bill*

## TRANSPORTATION SAFETY & FUNDING

SB 67 - Frix  
SB 73 - Woods  
SB 117 - Pederson  
SB 126 - Woods  
SB 173 - Nice  
SB 260 - Mann  
SB 493 - Standridge

## WATER RESOURCES

HB 1544 - Patzkowsky  
SB 92 - Bullard  
SB 196 - Green  
SB 265 - Murdock  
HB 1807 - Newton

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

# APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS



REAP provides grants to small communities, towns, counties, and other organizations serving populations under 7,000 that have little or no funding capabilities.

There are currently 538 municipalities in Oklahoma under 7,000 in population (90% of all Oklahoma municipalities).

REAP grants can be used to fund capital improvements for infrastructure and public facilities, road and street construction and equipment for health and public safety.

In FY 2025 the REAP allocation was \$30 million, funded over 460 projects across the state and was also used to leverage almost \$50 million in funding for Community & Economic Development projects in rural communities.

**FY 2026 Recommendation:** Increase REAP funding by **\$6 million**, which by statute will distribute equal REAP allocations of **\$3.27 million to all 11 Oklahoma Councils of Government (COGs)**.

**RECEIVING:** An additional **\$3 million** was approved to bring the total to **\$33 million** statewide.



The Rural Fire Defense (RFD) Program supports and equips rural fire departments in protecting lives and property of rural Oklahomans. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF) contracts through Oklahoma Association of Regional Councils (OARC) for the COGs to employ RFD Coordinators who annually certify approximately 875 fire departments across Oklahoma for state operational funding and assist rural fire departments with training, grant writing, inventory and equipment support.

State funding for the RFD program in FY 2025 per COG was \$100,000, which made a huge impact to the program.

**FY 2026 Recommendation:** Increase the current **\$100,000 to \$125,000 per all 11 Oklahoma COGs** and make it a line item in the State budget through the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry and oppose any and all changes that may be proposed to the Rural Fire Defense Program.

**RECEIVING:** Stays at current allocation (\$100,000 per all 11 COGs)

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 and job creation and make the delivery of governmental services more effective.

Substate funding has declined from \$50,000 to its current level of \$27,272.72 for FY 2025. Maintaining adequate Substate funding is necessary for COGs to continue to provide essential intergovernmental services to local governments in their Districts.

**FY 2026 Recommendation:** Increase Substate planning funding to **\$50,000 per all 11 Oklahoma COGs** and make it a line-item in the State budget through the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

**RECEIVING:** Stays at current allocation (\$27,272.72).



# QUESTIONS?

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