



2020 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Contents

- Business and Labor* 1
- Children and Families* 2
- County & Municipal Government*..... 2
- Criminal Justice*..... 2
- Education*..... 3
- Elections*..... 4
- Emergency Management*..... 4
- Health* 5
- Insurance* 5
- Introduction* 1
- Judiciary* 6
- Public Safety*..... 6
- Retirement*..... 6
- Revenue and Taxation*..... 7
- State Government*..... 7
- Tourism*..... 8

Introduction

As the start of the second session of the 57th Legislature commenced, elected officials were faced with signs of a slowing economy, flat revenue collections and weakness in the energy sector. The State Board of Equalization’s initial estimate of the amount of dollars available for appropriation by the Legislature for FY 2021 was \$85.5 million less than the previous year, a manageable number compared to the \$1.4 billion shortfall that would eventually be certified in April. After having completed only one quarter of the session, the legislative process was brought to a halt shortly after the state’s first confirmed case of COVID-19 was reported on March 6. The Legislature’s response to the emerging pandemic was swift and unprecedented. On March 15, the Governor declared a state of emergency pursuant to the Oklahoma Emergency Management Act. On March 16, the House adopted **HR 1032** which amended House Rules allowing members to vote by proxy.

Legislators returned to the Capitol on April 6, 2020, as the First Special Session of the 57th Legislature was convened to respond to the Governor’s state of emergency declaration. **HCR 1001X** affirmed the Governor’s declaration of a health emergency and extended the office greater authority under the Catastrophic Health Emergency Powers Act, provided the Legislature was notified prior to the waiving of regulations or other action. In regular session on that same day, the Legislature addressed the current-year revenue failure brought about by record-low oil prices.

The regular session of the Legislature reconvened on May 4, with members heading back to the Capitol to craft the 2021 state budget and to enact other legislation deemed important in light of the continued pandemic. For the FY 2021 budget, the Legislature was able to moderate the inevitable cuts to state agencies by utilizing one-time cash from various funds, authorizing the issuance of bonds and enacting temporary apportionment reforms for sales, use, income and insurance premium tax revenue. In response to the pandemic, lawmakers enacted election reforms and quickly sought to provide liability protections to hospitals, health care providers, businesses and manufacturers of products being used to fight COVID-19. Additional accomplishments of the session include a cost of living adjustment for retirees of various state retirement systems for the first time in 12 years, modifications to the virtual charter school transparency laws and new requirements for insurers to cover mental health and substance abuse services.

Business and Labor

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Law Enforcement Commission issued a temporary waiver to allow the delivery of sealed containers of beer, wine and spirits. **SB 1928** makes the change permanent, allowing retail spirits licensees, small brewers, small farm wineries, and restaurants, bars, clubs and grocery stores that hold alcohol licenses to deliver and sell curbside alcoholic beverages. Licensees

are prohibited from utilizing third-party vendors or delivery services to do so.

Because of food-supply disruptions caused by COVID-19, the Oklahoma cattle industry has lost about \$600 million as of early April, according to an Oklahoma State University agricultural economy report. In response, the Legislature enacted **HB 2008**, allowing the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF) to promulgate rules that could help cattle and bison producers offer products directly to customers across state lines. The measure allows ODAFF to address bottlenecks in cattle processing by increasing processing capacity and flexibility in the state's meat inspection policies, if the U.S. Department of Agriculture gives the state authority to do so.

SB 1682 preempts any local government rule, order or ordinance that restricts the location of, or regulates the interest rates and fees charged by, a business that is licensed or regulated by the Oklahoma Department of Consumer Credit. Local governments are also prohibited from any action that would disrupt the ability of licensed lenders to offer consumer loans. Any person aggrieved by a violation of the aforementioned restrictions has a right to sue for injunctive relief in district court.

SB 1362 loosens restrictions on projects that are prohibited from receiving state local government matching payments pursuant to the Oklahoma Local Development and Enterprise Zone Incentive Leverage Act. Currently, any development project that uses more than 10 percent of its net leasable space for retail does not qualify for the matching payments. The measure increases the net leasable space limit for retail to 50 percent and exempts any space leased to a grocery or specialty food store from the limit when such stores provide healthy food options and improve access for low income and low access geographies.

Children and Families

SB 1739 provides that the statutory authorization and requirements related to electronic monitoring in nursing facilities also applies to assisted living centers and continuum of care facilities.

HB 1276 deletes authorization for the revocation, suspension, non-issuance or nonrenewal of any occupational, professional, business or driving license of someone who has failed to pay child support for at least 90 days.

HB 1282 prohibits children aged 14 and younger from being placed in a juvenile detention facility, unless certain conditions have been met. Detention of children aged 12 years or younger must be judicially reviewed.

County & Municipal Government

To give cities flexibility in their budget development, **SB 187** creates the Municipal Government COVID-19 Emergency Budget Act to allow municipal governments to adopt a temporary budget for FY 2021 if the governing body determines that adopting a yearly budget is not in the best interest of the municipality due to the effects of the pandemic on sales tax revenue projections.

SB 1888 directs 35 percent of the amount that would otherwise be credited to the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges Fund to be sent directly to the counties, up to \$120 million. County treasurers are required to deposit the funds into the county's highway fund, to be used for maintenance and operations. This applies only during the FY 2021, in response to revenue loss due to the pandemic.

SB 1403 requires each circuit engineering district to be audited by the State Auditor and Inspector each fiscal year. This replaces a requirement that the district conduct an independent audit according to rules prescribed by the State Auditor and Inspector.

Criminal Justice

The Legislature strengthened protections for victims of domestic violence with the enactment of **HB 3251**, which adds domestic abuse by strangulation, domestic assault with a dangerous weapon, domestic assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and domestic assault and battery with a deadly weapon to the violent crimes list.

In an effort to stop package theft, **HB 2777** creates the Porch Piracy Act of 2020. The measure establishes a misdemeanor crime for a first and second offense for any person who holds, conceals, destroys or takes mail from the mailbox or premises of another person or from a delivery vehicle at any point throughout the delivery route without consent. For the first offense, a person may be sentenced to not more than one year, a fine of up to \$500, or both fine and imprisonment. A person convicted of a third or subsequent offense, or who has committed three or more offenses in a 60 day period can be charged with a felony and may be sentenced not less than two years nor more than five years in prison, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both fine and imprisonment.

SB 1462 provides that any person who disseminates sexually explicit private sexual images and who gains or attempts to gain anything of value as a result of the nonconsensual dissemination of the images shall be guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for up to four years. A second or subsequent conviction is punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment and the person convicted must register pursuant to the Oklahoma Sex Offender Registration Act. The measure also clarifies sex offender registration procedures and provides that the provisions

of the Sex Offender Registration Act do not apply while the person is incarcerated.

SB 1385 establishes recordkeeping and disclosure requirements for testimony provided by a jailhouse informant. In any trial where the state intends to introduce testimony of a jailhouse informant, the state must provide to the defendant at least ten days prior to trial:

- The complete criminal history of the informant, including any dismissed charges;
- Any deal, promise, inducement or benefit made to the informant in connection with his or her testimony;
- Any specific statements or recordings made by the suspect to the informant and the time, place and manner of the disclosure;
- All other filed cases in which the state intended to introduce the testimony of the informant in connection with a deal, promise, inducement or benefit, the nature of the deal, and whether the testimony was admitted in the case;
- Whether at any time the informant recanted the testimony or statement, and if so, a transcript or copy of the recantation, and
- Any other information relevant to the credibility of the informant.

Each district attorney's office is to maintain a central record that tracks each case in which the state intended to introduce the testimony of a jailhouse informant and the District Attorneys Council is to maintain a statewide record of the information and prepare an annual report regarding the number of cases using jailhouse informant testimony.

Education

HB 2905 creates the Virtual Charter School Reform and Transparency Act of 2020, which addresses transfer, attendance, and truancy policies.

Transfer policy changes include:

- A student who enrolls in a virtual charter school is to be considered a transfer student from their resident district.
- Upon notice that a student has transferred to a virtual charter, the resident district has three days to transmit the student's records to the virtual school.
- After a student transfers to a virtual charter for the year, the student is not allowed to transfer to any other virtual charter without the concurrence of both their resident district and the receiving virtual school.

Attendance policy changes include:

- A student's first date of attendance at the virtual school will be the first date they complete an instructional activity.
- The number of instructional activities a student must complete each quarter in order to be considered in attendance for that quarter is increased from 40 to 72.
- The definition of instructional activity is modified to mean a meeting with a teacher, a graded assignment, school-sanctioned field trips, or orientation.
- Virtual charter school students are now required to go through an orientation prior to completing any other instructional activities.

Truancy policy changes include:

- Any student that does not complete an instructional activity for 15 consecutive school days shall be withdrawn for truancy.
- If a virtual charter school withdraws a student for truancy, the school is required to immediately notify the student's resident district in writing.
- A student who is reported for truancy twice in the same school year must be withdrawn and prohibited from enrolling in the same virtual school for the remainder of the school year.

SB 1125 directs the State Board of Education to issue a teaching certificate to anyone with a valid out-of-state teaching certificate. The individual is exempted from taking competency exams as long as the Oklahoma teaching certificate is only valid for the subjects and grades most closely aligned to those recognized on the out-of-state certificate. The individual must have a current Oklahoma criminal history record check on file as well as a national criminal history record check.

HB 1230 adds new transparency provisions to the Lindsey Nicole Henry (LNH) Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program. The measure requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to list on its website:

- All information a private school submits with its application to participate in the LNH program;
- All associations that accredit private schools within the LNH program; and
- The annual compliance statement for each participating private school.

Furthermore, the measure requires the SDE to annually prepare and post to its website a report detailing:

- The total number and amount of scholarships awarded to each participating private school;
- The total number of scholarships denied;

- The total number and amount of scholarship payments suspended for each private school; and
- Data on participating students including economically disadvantaged status and disability category.

HB 2804 requires any student in grades K-3, who is not meeting grade-level reading targets, to be screened for dyslexia beginning with the 2022-23 school year. The measure requires the State Board of Education to develop policies for dyslexia screening, and to approve a list of qualified dyslexia screening tools. School districts are required to provide the SDE with the number of students screened for dyslexia each year, the number of students identified and the process used to evaluate students. As funds are available, the SDE is required to provide training on the best practices for dyslexia screening, beginning with the 2021-22 school year.

Due to the disruption of the school year caused by the pandemic, **HB 3964** allows a school district to exceed the general fund carryover limits during FY 2020 and avoid penalty.

Two measures became law not withstanding the Governor's veto. **HB 2749** places a cap of \$671.2 million on the total amount of state matching funds for the endowed chairs program at qualifying institutions of higher learning. **HB 2750** authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$314.4 million to fund the state match portion of the endowed chair program.

HB 2743 directs \$180 Million of the amount that would ordinarily go to the Rebuilding Oklahoma Access and Driver Safety Fund of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation be apportioned to the Education Reform Revolving Fund of the SDE, but only for the fiscal years beginning in 2020 and 2021. The Governor's veto of this measure was overridden by the Legislature.

Elections

SB 1779 designates *absentee ballot harvesting* as a crime, which is defined as collecting an absentee ballot from another person with the intent of returning it to election officials on behalf of that person; requesting or receiving an absentee ballot for another person; completing an application for an absentee ballot for another person without that person's consent, or notarizing or witnessing more absentee ballots than allowed by law. It is a felony for any person to engage in or direct another person to commit acts of absentee ballot harvesting involving ten or more ballots at any one election and a misdemeanor to do the same involving fewer than 10 ballots.

Further, the measure authorizes the Secretary of the State Election Board to use state and federal funds to reimburse county election boards for election-related expenses during calendar year 2020, as well as for items related to the COVID-19 pandemic that are deemed

necessary. The bill provides that state and political subdivision employees may be granted up to three days of paid administrative leave in 2020 if they serve as a precinct official or other election worker authorized by law. Additional provisions of the bill include:

- Directing state entities and political subdivisions located in a precinct without a suitable polling place available to make space available upon request by the secretary of the county election board;
- Allowing a secretary of a county election board to combine multiple precincts into a single polling place;
- Authorizing the Secretary of the State Election Board to develop protocols to be used during an emergency declaration related to the pandemic; and
- Requiring the district attorney or member of law enforcement to investigate any possible criminal violation of law related to absentee ballot requests that is brought to their attention.

SB 210 creates alternative procedures related to absentee ballot affidavits for elections held in 2020. If a State of Emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic declared by the Governor is in effect 45 days prior to, or within, a scheduled election, a voter can request an absentee ballot and attach a photocopy of a form of identification to the affidavit, in lieu of having the affidavit notarized and his or her signature witnessed by two people. The measure also establishes an alternative process for the delivery of absentee ballot applications to residents of long-term care facilities and modifies the criteria to qualify as *physically incapacitated* for purposes of requesting an absentee ballot to include COVID-19-related health issues.

HB 3826 requires initiative and referendum petitions to include the voter's first and last name, ZIP code, house number and month and day of birth. At least three of these data points must match the voter registration file in order for the signature to be approved by the Secretary of State. Further, the bill requires the secretary to design a form to be used by proponents when collecting signatures.

Emergency Management

Historic floods in May 2019 prompted legislators to elevate flood preparedness and mitigation as a topic in the next comprehensive water plan. If funding is available, **SB 1269** directs the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to create a state flood plan to serve as a guide for state and local flood control policy, facilitate collaboration between state and federal agencies and enable federal cost sharing for flood mitigation projects. To create the plan, the board will evaluate the condition of flood-control infrastructure, inventory ongoing and proposed flood control and mitigation projects, and analyze

development in special flood hazard areas, among other requirements. The measure also creates the State Flood Resiliency Revolving Fund.

SB 1938 authorizes the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority to issue \$17.5 million in bonds on behalf of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission's work to repair high-hazard dams, named such because people live below the dams. The money is eligible for a two-to-one federal match. In addition, \$1 million of the FY 2021 budget is for improvements to rural flood-control dams.

Health

SB 1823 requires midwives to be licensed by the OSDH and be certified by either the North American Registry of Midwives or the American Midwifery Certification Board. The department is directed to promulgate rules, in consultation with health care providers, for:

- Licensure, including determining the scope of practice;
- Establishing a formulary of prescription drugs midwives may administer;
- Procedures for obtaining informed consent;
- Establishing applicant qualifications and continuing education requirements; and
- Setting penalties and fees.

The application fees may not exceed \$1,000 and licenses will be valid for three years. OSDH is directed to maintain a public list of licensed midwives.

Further, practicing midwives must disclose to potential clients information related to their credentials, malpractice insurance and plans for an emergency, including the selection of a hospital. Midwives must recommend medical consultation for women at risk for complicated pregnancy. A physician or Certified Nurse-Midwife instructing a midwife is immune from liability if the midwife fails to comply with the order.

Preparing for possible Medicaid expansion in the state, the Legislature looked to the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust as a potential funding source. **SJR 27**, refers to a vote of the people, a constitutional amendment to lower the proportion of annual tobacco settlement payments directed to the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Fund, from 75 percent to 25 percent. The remaining funds would be directed into a special tobacco settlement fund managed by the Legislature and primary used to draw down matching funding for Medicaid. A related measure, **SB 1529** establishes a new apportionment formula for funds received from tobacco settlement lawsuits not already apportioned to the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Fund contingent upon the state question being approved by voters. To ensure that the Attorney General's Evidence Fund receives the

same share of the settlement payments, the measure directs those funds be distributed as follows:

- 91.67 percent to the Tobacco Settlement Fund, and
- 8.33 percent to the Attorney General's Evidence Fund.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Legislature passed **HB 2938**, amending the circumstances under which records related to a public health investigation may be released. If the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) determines that releasing a patient's records is necessary to protect the public health, it may only do so if the release is authorized under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

Another Medicaid funding measure, **SB 1935** authorizes the transfer of funds from the Revenue Stabilization Fund required for expansion in FY 2021.

SB 1937 strikes language requiring that the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) utilize the Rate Preservation Fund solely to maintain provider reimbursement rates in the event the state's Federal Medical Assistance Percentage decreases. The measure allows OHCA to use the fund more broadly to maintain provider reimbursement rates.

Insurance

SB 1718 requires health benefits policies to provide coverage for mental health and substance use disorder services. Further, the measure requires small employers to provide mental health and substance use disorder benefits. Health benefit plans may not impose non-quantitative limitations on mental health and substance use disorder benefits that are more stringent than ones imposed on medical and surgical benefits.

Insurers must submit to the Insurance Commissioner an annual report documenting criteria determining medical necessity for mental health and substance use disorder treatment, and limitations imposed on those benefits versus medical and surgical benefits. The report must be made public by June 1 of each year. Insurers failing to comply with the provisions of the bill may be subject to license suspension or revocation, or other penalties as determined by the commissioner.

HB 2587 creates the Nondiscrimination in Health Care Coverage Act. The measure prohibits the state and all units of state government from developing a dollars-per-quality adjusted life year calculation for individuals with a disability in order to determine their health care coverage. Additionally, state agencies must:

- Post for public comment proposed utilization management measures, such as prior authorization requirements;

- Consult with organizations advocating for individuals with disabilities and older adults before implementing health coverage changes; and
- Submit an annual report to the Legislature outlining beneficiary access to services, with specific emphasis on individuals with disabilities and older adults. The report will be published on the state Medicaid website.

Judiciary

HB 2673 rejects the judicial salary increase of 9.23 percent recommended in the Final Report of the Board on Judicial Compensation issued in 2019. The measure provides an increase of 4.5 percent for certain judicial positions, to take effect on July 1, 2020.

SB 1947 creates the COVID-19 Product Protection Act, which provides civil immunity to anyone involved in the design, manufacturing, labeling, selling, distribution or donation of third party or off-label cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The immunity is only applicable if the individual does not make such products in the ordinary course of business and also extends to any government entity, health care facility, health care provider, first responder, or business that selects, distributes or uses such products. The legal protections provided for in the bill are only applicable to claims filed on or after the March 15, 2020, emergency declaration by the Governor and do not apply to anyone who had knowledge of a product defect or acted with deliberate indifference or intention to cause harm.

SB 300 creates the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Limited Liability Act. The measure protects a health care facility or health care provider from civil liability for any harm to a person with a suspected or confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 caused by an act that occurred during the treatment of the person, provided it was not the result of gross negligence or willful misconduct. The provisions of the measure are to be in effect until October 31, 2020, or until such time as the Governor affirmatively concludes the emergency declaration, whichever is later.

SB 1946 protects persons or entities conducting business in the state from civil liability for actions related to exposure or potential exposure to COVID-19 if the action taken by the person or entity was in compliance or consistent with federal or state regulations.

Public Safety

In an effort to strengthen the role of victims impact panels in helping stop driving under the influence offenses, **HB 2877** establishes a set fee to attend a victims impact panel at \$75. Previously, the fee was a minimum of \$15 to not more than \$60. Certified assessment agencies and certified assessors or providers are prohibited from

providing a victims impact panel and may not have any proprietary or monetary interest in a victims impact panel program. Beginning October 1, 2020, victims impact panel providers are required to submit certain information to the District Attorneys Council, which will certify the panels to ensure they meet all statutory requirements and operate properly. Additionally, providers will pay a \$1,000 registration fee to the council.

HB 4138 creates the Political Subdivisions Opioid Abatement Grants Act to promote and protect the health of Oklahomans by using monetary grants to abate the opioid crisis in a comprehensive manner that includes collaboration with political subdivisions. The measure creates the nine-member Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Board to develop and implement procedures for the disbursement of opioid grant awards to eligible participants, to be used by eligible participants to fund and reimburse costs related to approved purposes. The Office of the Attorney General is to provide staff support to the Board. Criteria for grant awards is to be based upon where the opioid needs are most prevalent. Two related measures, **HB 4140**, appropriates \$10,220,000 to the Oklahoma Opioid Abatement Revolving Fund and **SB1930** redirects \$3 million from the Opioid Lawsuit Settlement Fund to the district courts for purposes including, but not limited to, drug court, mental health court and veteran courts to address the impact of opioid abuse.

SB 1081 creates the Anti Red Flag Act. The measure prohibits any order, ordinance or regulation by any municipality or other political subdivision that authorizes confiscation of firearms without due process.

HB 4049, which was vetoed by the Governor and later overridden, modifies the process by which a person may renew his or her motor vehicle registration online. The measure requires an applicant to select a motor license agent to process any online transaction. The measure also requires license agent fees collected by a state agency to be deposited into the General Revenue Fund. These changes must be implemented no later than January 1, 2021.

Retirement

HB 3350 authorizes a cost of living adjustment (COLA) between 2 and 4 percent for retirees of the teachers', firefighters, public employees, judges and justices, law enforcement and police pension systems. The COLA percentage is based on the number of years that the individual has been retired as of July 1, 2020, and is equal to 4 percent for those retired five years or more and 2 percent for those retired at least two, but less than five years.

HB 2272 designates deputy sheriffs and jailers first employed on or after November 1, 2020, as hazardous duty members of the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement

System. Hazardous duty members receive increased retirement benefits compared to non-hazardous duty employees and are subject the following contribution and benefit structure:

- The employee contribution rate is 8 percent of compensation whereas the employer contribution rate is 16.5 percent;
- Members are eligible to receive full, unreduced retirement benefits after 20 years of service; and
- Benefits are calculated using a 2.5 percent per-year multiplier for the first 20 years of service and a 2 percent per-year multiplier for service in excess of 20 years.

The measure also provides full retirement benefits to the surviving spouse or eligible children of these employees if they are killed during the performance of their job duties.

HB 3330 modifies the disability pension standards for members of the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System (OPPRS) by requiring the Board of Trustees for OPPRS to make a determination that any police officer who sustains an injury during a violent act while in the performance of their duties is 100 percent disabled and entitled to a 100 percent normal disability benefit.

Two measures were enacted by successful veto overrides, **HB 2741** and **HB 2742**. **HB 2741** increases the percentage of sales, use, individual income and corporate income tax revenue apportioned to the Education Reform Revolving Fund beginning September 1, 2020, through the end of FY 2022. The increased funding for education, estimated at \$73 million for FY 2021, is offset by equivalent percentage reductions of revenue dedicated to the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma (OTRS). OTRS will receive increased apportionments in FY 2023 through FY 2027 to make up for the lost revenue.

HB 2742 modifies the apportionment formula for insurance premium tax revenue to provide funding to the Education Reform Revolving Fund from September 1, 2020, through the end of FY 2022. The funding provided to education, estimated at \$39 million for FY 2021, is offset by equivalent percentage reductions of revenue dedicated to the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System Oklahoma Police Pension Retirement System and Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System. The affected pension systems will receive increased apportionments in FY 2023 through FY 2027 to make up for the lost revenue.

Revenue and Taxation

In response to the revenue failure for the current fiscal year, the Legislature passed three measures: **SB 199**, **SB 1053** and **SB 617**.

SB 199 transfers \$302,339,481 from the Rainy Day Fund to the General Revenue Fund.

SB 1053 transfers \$201,559,654 from the Rainy Day Fund to the Revenue Stabilization Fund.

SB 617 authorizes the Office of Management and Enterprise Services to transfer up to one-half of the balance of the Revenue Stabilization Fund to mitigate funding cuts to state agencies and common school districts for FY 2020 with the exception of appropriations pledged to the Digital Transformation Program Revolving Fund.

Enacted by a successful veto override, **SB 1922**, the general appropriations bill for the FY 2021 budget, provides for \$7,589,496,474 in legislative appropriations.

HB 2740 authorizes a postponement period of up to one year for delinquent tax sales, notices and publications issued by a county when a Catastrophic Health Emergency has been declared. The postponement request must be approved by a board of county commissioners upon the written request of the county treasurer.

State Government

SB 661 allows a public body to hold meetings or executive sessions by teleconference or videoconference during the state of emergency related to COVID-19. A teleconference or videoconference meeting must be stopped if the audio connection fails, and reconvened once the connection is restored. The meeting notice and agenda must indicate if teleconferencing or videoconferencing will be used, as well as each member of the public body and their method of appearance. Once the notice is published, a member may not change their method of appearance. The provisions of the bill are effective until November 15, 2020, or the Governor declares the state of emergency to be terminated, whichever comes first.

HB 3613 prohibits any public agency in the State of Oklahoma from:

- Requiring an individual to provide information on affiliation with any nonprofit organization;
- Requiring any nonprofit to provide information on individuals affiliated with them;
- Releasing any nonprofit affiliation information which is in possession of the state, subdivision or agency; or
- Requiring a contractor or grantee with the agency to provide a list of nonprofit entities to which it has provided support.

The measure also exempts this personal nonprofit affiliation information from the Open Records Act.

HB 2744 authorizes the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority to issue bonds in an amount necessary to generate net proceeds of \$200,000,000 for the purpose of funding highway and bridge projects identified in the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's eight-year construction plan.

HB 3819 was enacted by veto override. It authorizes members of the Legislature to review contracts and any other form of agreement made by a state agency. The measure also makes it unlawful for an agency to prohibit any person or entity from communicating with the Legislature.

Lawmakers successfully overrode vetoes on **HB 4018** and **SB 1002**. **HB 4018** creates the Rural Broadband Expansion Council, which is directed to conduct a study of rural broadband access in Oklahoma. The study will divide the state into separate geographic areas based on existing broadband capability, cost of service, estimated costs for improving access, likelihood of changes in access in the future, and other information as deemed relevant by the council. The council is further directed to develop policy recommendations conducive to establishing or improving rural broadband access. Finally, the measure requires the Oklahoma Department of Commerce to provide administrative support to the council, utilizing the Digital Transformation Program Revolving Fund for expenses incurred. A related measure, **SB 1002**, expands the Rural Broadband Expansion Council by two members, from 12 to 14.

SB 1940 provides at least \$1 million in funding for the statewide branding initiative from funds appropriated to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

HB 4139 transfers the Robert S. Kerr and J. Howard Edmonson buildings in Tulsa to the Board of Regents

for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges, subject to funding for the Oklahoma Veterans Inpatient Facility in Tulsa by the federal government. Any agency currently occupying space in the buildings will be required to pay to the Board of Regents a monthly rent determined by the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES). The measure authorizes OMES to acquire properties or facilities from the Commissioners of the Land Office for relocation of those agencies. Finally, the measure repeals a statute that named these two buildings.

Tourism

HB 2753 provides for the transfer of the Quartz Mountain Arts and Conference Center and Nature Park to the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (OTRD) effective October 1, 2020. Currently, Quartz Mountain is administered by a board of trustees and is under the jurisdiction of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. A related measure, **HB 4141** appropriates \$508,031 to the OTRD for the transfer and rehabilitation of the Quartz Mountain assets.

SB 1941 directs the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority to issue \$48.6 million in bonds on behalf the OTRD for the purpose of constructing, repairing, and rehabilitating state park facilities. The measure specifies that \$3 million of the bond proceeds must be used to rehabilitate the Quartz Mountain Nature Park. ■