

2016 Legislative Interim Studies

Now that the Second Session of the 55th Legislature is over, House and Senate members are making requests for interim studies to gather more information on a variety of topics that did not get accomplished this session, need more work, or developed new ideas. The issues range from seismic activity, pension reform, water, revolving funds, 9-1-1 resources to education and healthcare.

The House requested 71 interim studies which is down from 122 requested last year. Speaker Hickman will select the studies and assign them to the appropriate committees to be heard by July 8th. Senators have until July 22nd to make their requests. Pro Tempore Bingman will assign the studies to a standing committee. It will be up to the chairman of the standing committee to hear the study request or not. Senate has until November 4th to complete their interim studies.

If you are unable to attend any of the meetings in the House of Representatives, you can follow the committee hearings online at www.oklegislature.gov. Select "Video" up top and scroll down to House Meetings Audio to hear the meeting as it is happening. You are also welcome to attend any of the meetings at the capitol. We will post the agendas as they are published on the OML website at www.oml.org.

We will continue to identify those studies which may impact municipal operations. We welcome your input on these issues.

Summary of Interim Studies with Municipal Impact

Ad Valorem Tax Exemptions:

H16-063 by Rep. David Brumbaugh will review the constitutional and statutory guidelines for ad valorem property tax exemptions.

Agency Fees

H16-049 by Rep. David Perryman will review the fees charged by various agencies and the cost of providing the services for which fees are charged with an emphasis on transparency.

Civil Asset Forfeiture

H16-030 by Rep. Scott Biggs will look at other reasonable changes that could be made to program that would allow law enforcement to effectively function while at same time safe guard potential harm to innocent citizens.

H16-041 by Rep. Mark Lepak will study civil asset Forfeiture and related issues, including use of ERAD devices

H16-055 by Rep. Cory Williams will examine procedures and reporting requirements of civil asset forfeiture.

Code Compliance

H16-006 by Rep. Mark McBride to review the statutes related to buildings that require the professional services of an architect or other design professional to determine code compliance and to make recommendations.

Contribution to State Budget

H16-007 by Rep. Jon Echols to review all non-appropriated State agencies that do not contribute revenue to the State budget.

Court Costs

H16-056 by Rep. Emily Virgin will examine the factors that lead to court-related debt in order to gain a better understanding of the impact of court costs and fees.

H16-057 by Rep. George Young will examine the court costs and fees over the last 20 years, including a review of how court systems have been funded and uses of funds collected.

Criminal Justice Reform

H16-064 by Rep. Regina Goodwin will study the fiscal impact of criminal justice sentencing reform, including recent and potential changes to the law.

Department of Corrections

H16-059 by Rep. John Bennett will look at the feasibility of an across the board pay raise for DOC employees, combining the Pardon and Parole Board into DOC structure, and other suggestions for changes in DOC operations that would produce positive results.

Grant Opportunities

H16-052 by Rep. Claudia Griffith will review the many untapped granting opportunities, and the reasons why state agencies choose to not pursue this funding, pertaining to grants from local, national and international foundations as well as those available to our state through federal granting sources to augment existing necessary core services as well as to add new programs within agencies presently unable to expand services.

Health Insurance

H16-048 by Rep. David Perryman will review the current cost of health insurance available to Oklahomans who are qualified to purchase health insurance and review/enhance the authority of the Oklahoma Insurance Commission to review those rates.

Healthcare Outcomes

H16-042 by Rep. Sean Roberts will look at current strategies and incentives to improve health outcomes and access to healthcare, especially in rural areas.

Medicaid Rebalancing Act

H16-054 by Rep. Glen Mulready will look at the Medicaid Rebalancing Act and other potential solutions.

Oil and Gas/Property Rights

H16-037 by Rep. Steve Kouplen will examine the setback requirements for oil and gas drilling and equipment. Explore the current state law and property owner's rights relating to a wellbore of an active oil or gas well and its physical proximity to an occupied structure, including oil or gas surface equipment.

Pensions

H16-019 by Rep. Randy McDaniel will discuss best practices for pension plans and the financial condition of the state retirement systems.

REAL ID

H16-051 by Rep. David Perryman to review what may be done legislatively to protect the rights of Oklahoma citizens to use state issued identification for commercial air travel and access to federal properties.

Rural Fire Protection

H16-050 by Rep. David Perryman will review the economic impact of fire protection in rural Oklahoma and to review the manner in which fire protection is provided in non-incorporated areas of the state and to explore and consider ways that fire protection may be enhanced.

Uninsured Motorists

H16-014 by Rep. Lewis Moore will have discussion of various proposals to reduce the number of uninsured motorist in Oklahoma.

Wastewater Recycling

H16-053 by Rep. Richard Morrisette study will review and host some of the nation's more innovative recyclers whose methods are cost effective for industry. Presently, there are being developed and implemented various methods of produced water wastewater recycling, as an alternative to injection. The issue of water and water quality are important to all Oklahomans, as well as maintaining the presence of legacy industries of equal importance to our economy and way of life.

Wellness in Oklahoma Communities

H16-032 by Rep. Claudia Griffith will look into the level of availability and prevalence within Oklahoma communities of practitioners of such techniques as homeopathy, aromatherapy, traditional cultural healing, energetic healing, mind- body healing and holistic kinesiology and their contribution to improved health and the possible need for additional services.

Workers Compensation

H16-012 by Rep. Lewis Moore will review the injuries and treatment of Workers' Compensation applicants.