

2019 Legislation Highlights

January 7, 2019

Pugh Bill Aims to Streamline State Debt Management

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Bergstrom Introduces Bill to Reduce Recidivism Rates

Senator Micheal Bergstrom, R-Adair, introduced Senate Bill 101 to tackle the state's high rate of recidivism. It's the latest of many Senate bills filed under the criminal justice reform category.... *(cont. on pages 1-2)*

Rader Bill Creates Public Surgery Information Online Database

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OK Senate Legislative Update

Pugh Bill Aims to Streamline State Debt Management

Senate Bill 94, authored by Senator Adam Pugh, R-Edmond, replaces the position of the Oklahoma state bond advisor with a new position of deputy treasurer for debt management. The deputy treasurer of debt management would be under the supervision of the state treasurer. The measure also requires the state treasurer's office to produce the written debt affordability study Bonded Indebtedness Report and staff the Council of Bond Oversight previously produced and staffed by the state bond advisor. All other duties and responsibilities previously held by the state bond advisor are otherwise transferred to the deputy treasurer for debt management. This legislation is among a swarm of other bills being filed to help government work more efficiently.

Bergstrom Introduces Bill to Reduce Recidivism Rates

Senator Micheal Bergstrom, R-Adair, introduced Senate Bill 101 to tackle the state's high rate of recidivism. It's the latest of many Senate bills filed under the criminal justice reform category. SB 101 prohibits the Boards of the Licensed Architects, Landscape Architects, Interior Designers of Oklahoma, Cosmetology and Barbering, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, and... *(cont. on page 2)*

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Oklahoma Funeral Board from denying an issuance or reinstatement of a license on the basis of a felony that occurred 10 years prior to the application submission. The measure does allow these boards to deny applicants on the basis of a criminal conviction that directly relates to an industry license and could continue to pose a threat or put Oklahoma citizens in dangerous situations. One of the key obstacles to implement criminal justice reform in Oklahoma is eliminating the barriers to entry into the general workforce standing in the way of offenders who have completed their sentence. This measure is a small adjustment that could help many individuals with a past conviction succeed and be less likely to re-enter the Oklahoma prison system.

Rader Bill Creates Public Surgery Information Online Database

Vice-Chair of Appropriations Committee, Senator Dave Rader, R-Tulsa, has proposed legislation to help increase available information for Oklahoma citizens in emergency situations. Senate Bill 99 requires Oklahoma hospitals that perform surgical procedures provide a list of procedures they do not perform on weekends to the Oklahoma State Department of Health. The Department of Health must then maintain a publicly available database containing this list of procedures. One of the clear benefits of this legislation would be to give Oklahomans a central webpage to view which hospitals offer specific services at any given time. For example, if an individual living in rural Oklahoma needs an emergency gall bladder surgery, they could check the Health Department web page before traveling to confirm which of the nearest hospitals offer the needed surgery.