

## Interim Studies Review

November 19, 2018

### Senate Looks at Possible Benefits of 'Truck Platooning'

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### Senate Studies Wildlife and Land Acquisition

*Both Sen. Kim David, R-Porter, and Sen. Paul Scott, R-Duncan, requested interim studies to look into the Wildlife... (cont. on pages 1-2)*

### Senate Looks at Ways to Meet Neurological Care Need

*One of the greatest assets Oklahoma possesses is our water. In fact, in times of heavy rainfall we possess so much water... (cont. on page 2)*



# OK Senate Legislative Update

## Senate Looks at Possible Benefits of 'Truck Platooning'

Imagine a long line of trucks connected by mechanical or electronic coupling and driven by multiple drivers using driver assist and other smart technology. That's "truck platooning" and it was the focus of an interim study requested by Senator Darcy Jech, R-Kingfisher. Oklahoma law currently bans the practice but supporters say the practice could lead to safer trucking and roadways. Supporters also say Oklahoma is losing out on potential economic benefits by banning platooning. A so-called southern platooning corridor developed from Florida to California. Since Oklahoma bans platooning, the state is losing out on potential tax revenue that would come from platoons filling up at gas stations in Oklahoma, supporters say. During the interim study Senators discussed what would be necessary to change the law to allow platooning. It's a transportation topic to keep an eye on as we move into the 2019 session.

## Senate Studies Wildlife and Land Acquisition

Both Senator Kim David, R-Porter, and Senator Paul Scott, R-Duncan, requested interim studies to look into the Wildlife Conservation Commission's land acquisition practices.

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Hunting and fishing activities support a lot of jobs and generate revenue for the state. However, there are concerns about land acquisition. For instance, land purchased by the state comes off the local property tax rolls. Senators wanted to look into lease vs. purchasing options. The commission says it makes payments in lieu of property taxes in 27 of the 51 counties in which it owns land. Senators had questions about whether the state competes against private purchases of land. Wildlife officials said they don't and instead consider offers brought them by land owners. Senator David said it's an issue the Senate will continue to discuss.

## **Senate Looks at Ways to Meet Neurological Care Need**

Oklahoma struggles with too few neurologists, a problem that's likely to be exacerbated as the state's population ages and becomes more prone for Alzheimer's disease. Senator Adam Pugh requested an interim study on the topic. Typically, health care access is mostly an issue in rural Oklahoma. But access to neurological care is a problem in both rural and urban parts of the state. Pugh said the solution likely lies in education – like increasing the number of medical residency slots in Oklahoma. Another solution discussed during the interim study is a project at the Oklahoma State University medical school that uses telemedicine to connect patients with providers.