

House Bill 1483

This bill changes the water permitting process.

Status: Governor signed

Our position: Support

- This bill will help ensure Oklahomans' water needs come before those of other states.

House Bill 1360

This bill strengthens penalties for assaulting emergency medical service providers.

Status: Governor signed

Our position: Support

- EMTs and paramedics have enough to worry about when saving people's lives. They shouldn't have to worry about being attacked.

House Bill 1736

This bill creates a new type of home health care provider and establishes training requirements.

Status: Governor signed

Our position: Support

- Properly trained standby home assistants can help improve the quality of life for the elderly and infirm.

Senate Bill 812

This bill creates the Oklahoma Lemon Law and specifies when dealers must replace faulty cars with comparable new models.

Status: Governor signed

Our position: Support

- Years in the making, this law will give consumers more clout when they return a vehicle.

Senate Bill 490

This bill raises the threshold for taxpayer-initiated lawsuits against governmental entities.

Status: Governor vetoed

Our position: Oppose

- Making it harder for taxpayers to hold public officials accountable is a step backward.

House Joint Resolution 1014

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the Legislature from making expenditures using a predetermined formula or by referencing expenditure levels of other state agencies or governments.

Status: Passed House and Senate, doesn't require governor's signature

Our position: Oppose

- This resolution is a backdoor attempt to kill the Oklahoma Education Association's HOPE petition. Voters should be trusted to decide whether to approve the petition on its merits, and this proposed constitutional amendment ties their hands in the future.

House Bill 1021

This bill eliminates noneconomic damages for uninsured drivers.

Status: Governor vetoed

Our position: Oppose

- This bill does nothing to reduce the number of uninsured drivers yet takes away the rights of those who are injured through no fault of their own but don't have insurance. Existing laws need to be better-enforced.

House Bill 1424

This bill requires anyone who is seeking a zoning change involving multiple housing units to mail notices to nearby residents.

Status: Governor signed

Our position: Support

- This bill came about after Tulsa homeowners were blindsided by an attempt to build a housing complex for the mentally ill. The law is a victory for homeowner and neighborhood rights.

Senate Bill 306

This bill requires contractors to carry liability insurance.

Status: Governor signed

Our position: Support

- This bill will help protect Oklahomans from unscrupulous contractors.

House Bill 1569

This bill requires those who use the term "doctor" to detail the authority of the title and requires health care advertisements to identify the practitioner's license.

Status: Governor signed

Our position: Support

- This bill will bring more transparency to health care advertising.

House Bill 2026

This bill attempts to increase enrollment in the Insure Oklahoma premium assistance program and allows health insurance companies to offer policies that are free of state coverage mandates.

Status: Governor signed

Our position: Support

- Although flawed and largely ineffective, this bill nevertheless is a small step toward making health insurance more accessible.

Senate Joint Resolution 27

This resolution increases the membership of the Judicial Nominating Commission and provides for selection.

Status: Passed House and Senate, doesn't require governor's signature

Our position: Oppose

- This resolution risks politicizing the judiciary by adding a member selected by the Senate president pro tempore and a member selected by the House speaker. The Judicial Nominating Commission works well as it's currently structured.

Senate Bill 1138

This bill creates penalties for those who are impaired by alcohol or other substances and have children in the vehicle.

Status: Governor signed

Our position: Support

- According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Oklahoma is the 40th state to enact child-endangerment DUI laws. If you've been drinking or are otherwise impaired, you shouldn't drive, and you certainly shouldn't have children in the car.

Senate Bill 602

This bill prohibits those convicted of some felonies from obtaining real estate licenses.

Status: Governor signed

Our position: Support

- A newspaper investigation in Florida found thousands of mortgage professionals had criminal records, likely contributing to the housing bust there. This bill helps Oklahomans trust their real estate agents and know they're not being scammed.

Senate Bill 553

This bill increases the time that a person may remain on a group health policy after its termination and includes those who are eligible for COBRA coverage in the state High Risk Pool.

Status: Governor signed

Our position: Support

- This bill will help keep unemployed Oklahomans from becoming uninsured. Those on these policies will still have to pay premiums, but the extra time may be enough for them to find other insurance and/or employment.

Senate Bill 609

This bill reduces the number of judges on the Workers Compensation Court and requires Senate confirmation of nominees.

Status: Governor vetoed

Our position: Oppose

- Requiring Senate approval of Workers Compensation Court judges risks politicizing the process.

Senate Bill 4

This bill requires proof of identity when voting.

Status: Governor vetoed

Our position: Oppose

- **Although protecting the integrity of elections is a worthwhile aim, this bill likely will disenfranchise some voters and is in response to a problem that many say doesn't exist.**

House Bill 1750

This bill creates the Nuclear Energy Incentive Act and allows utilities to recoup the cost of studying and building nuclear reactors from ratepayers.

Status: Passed House

Our position: Oppose

- **Raising electricity rates to pay for expensive nuclear power plants in a down economy is a bad idea.**

House Bill 1326

This bill prohibits embryonic stem cell research.

Status: Governor vetoed

Our position: Oppose

- **Embryonic stem cell research has tremendous promise to help those who suffer from debilitating diseases, and the embryos used are otherwise discarded. Prohibiting embryonic stem cell research could harm the state's medical research industry.**

House Bill 1975

This bill requires health insurance coverage mandates to be introduced in odd-numbered years, passed in even-numbered years and have financial impact reports.

Status: Governor vetoed

Our position: Oppose

- **This bill ensures that health insurance mandates such as autism coverage will never be heard, despite having a high level of support, and does nothing to slow the double-digit health insurance premium increases of recent years.**

House Bill 2204

This bill gradually decreases the grocery tax and increases the grocery tax credit.

Status: Passed House

Our position: Support

- **Although reducing taxes in a down economy is difficult, the grocery tax is highly regressive and disproportionately affects the poor – those most in need of help.**

House Bill 1888

This bill requires counties to create emergency medical services plans and allows them to raise money for EMS services.

Status: Died in conference committee

Our position: Support

- This bill will help alleviate the ongoing problem of inadequate rural EMS by forcing local elected officials to examine access in their communities and giving them the means to pay for EMS.

House Bill 1603

This bill enacts a host of changes to the state's civil justice system.

Status: Governor signed

Our position: Oppose

- The bill used on this scorecard is the version that passed the House and Senate before changing dramatically in conference committee and obtaining the governor's approval. The bill is a one-sided assault on injured Oklahomans, their rights and the rule of law. It amounts to nothing but a giveaway to greedy corporations and insurance companies.

House Bill 1627

This bill requires nursing homes to report certain serious incidents to law enforcement immediately.

Status: Passed House

Our position: Support

- This bill makes nursing home residents safer. It is a shame it didn't receive a Senate hearing.

House Bill 2030

This bill creates the Silver Alert Act for missing seniors.

Status: Governor signed

Our position: Support

- Notifying media outlets when a senior citizen is missing will help save lives.

House Bill 1602

This bill puts to a vote of the people whether to cap some attorney fees on a sliding scale.

Status: Passed House, failed in Senate

Our position: Oppose

- This bill violates free-market principles and rewards makers of dangerous drugs and products without putting a penny in injured Oklahomans' pockets. It slams the courthouse doors to those who have been harmed.

House Bill 1065

This bill requires the state Department of Health to post an online guide to assisted living facilities and post routine inspections and complaint investigations of assisted living facilities.

Status: Governor signed

Our position: Support

- Online access to assisted living data and inspections will help seniors choose where to live.

House Bill 1893

This bill requires the state Department of Human Services to work with other agencies and groups to establish a single point of entry for aging and disability groups.

Status: Governor signed

Our position: Support

- This bill will help the elderly and disabled navigate a complex system of services.

House Bill 1601

This bill prohibits attorneys from withholding money from settlements to use as political contributions.

Status: Governor vetoed

Our position: Oppose

- This bill might have been acceptable had it banned such contributions from all businesses. However, by singling out attorneys it likely is unconstitutional “special legislation” and infringes upon injured Oklahomans’ right to political speech.

House Bill 1055

This bill prohibits failing to pay or requesting a refund for health care services that have been preauthorized or precertified.

Status: Governor signed

Our position: Support

- We chose this bill because the Senate adopted an amendment to it to prohibit insurance companies from paying bonuses for denying medical care. This amendment later was stripped. This bill isn’t a bad bill, but it could have been so much better.

House Bill 2027

This bill establishes licenses for behavioral analysts for those with autism and requires the state’s High Risk Pool to cover autism.

Status: Senate amendments read in House

Our position: Support

- Licensing health care providers to treat children with autism is a start, but their services will be out of reach for many families. Including autism coverage in the High Risk Pool is a small step toward ensuring that services are accessible without requiring wider coverage.

Senate Bill 318

This bill requires the Oklahoma Tax Commission to issue decals for vehicles that aren't used exclusively on the highway and requires the Tax Commission to post a list of those who owe more than \$25,000 in delinquent taxes.

Status: Governor signed

Our position: Support

- The version of this bill we chose includes a gradual elimination of the grocery tax. The eventual bill did not have this language and was considerably different.

Senate Bill 990

This bill requires online documents that are made available under the state Open Records Act to have driver's license and Social Security numbers removed.

Status: Passed Senate

Our position: Support

- Transparent government requires public records, but driver's license and Social Security numbers should be redacted to protect people from identity theft.

Senate Bill 883

This bill prohibits telemarketing phone calls on Sundays.

Status: Passed Senate

Our position: Support

- This bill provides relief for Oklahomans whose phones constantly ring with solicitors' calls.