GOVERNMENT LAW

1. HB 1373 This bill permits a person with a criminal record to request from the appropriate state licensing board or certification authority, at any time, to make an initial determination of whether the criminal record would disqualify that person from obtaining a license before that board or authority. "At any time" could mean before the applicant obtains any required education or training for such occupation.

   The bill requires each state licensing agency charged with oversight of an occupational license or certification to list with specificity any criminal offense that is a disqualifying offense for such occupation. HB 1373 also requires that any disqualifying offensive be substantially related to the duties and responsibilities for that occupation and pose a reasonable threat to public safety as established in the bill. This bill requires disqualifying information be provided to applicants and other individuals upon request and requirements for state licensing entities to response to a request for any initial determination.

   The bill removes the requirement that an applicant or licensee be of good moral character. HB 1373 provides that a criminal act that disqualifies an individual from licensing be related to the conduct required by that state licensing board or authority.

2. HB 1921 This bill creates the Oklahomans Virtually Everywhere Act ("Act") of 2019. It directs the Oklahoma State Board of Regents for Higher Education, the State Board of Career and Technologies Education, the Department of Commerce and the Office of Management and Enterprise Services to research and develop a proposal to make Oklahoma a leader in telepresence ,with the ultimate goal of being a leader in virtual presence as the technology matures. "Virtual presence" means that the interaction between individuals and groups virtually present in meetings, conferences, office work and other social contexts are indistinguishable between those who are physically present and who are not."Telepresence" means the ability of people who are not physically present with each other to collaborate and interact with others in meetings, conference office work and other contexts as though they were physically present.

3. HB 2366 This bill modifies the Supreme Court Judicial Districts. Each Justice in office on July 1,2020 shall serve the term for which the Justice was appointed or retained in office by retention ballot and until his or her successor is appointed and qualified, unless the Justice vacates the office prior to the end of his or her term or is removed from office as provided by law. Any Justice in office on July 1,2020 shall be eligible for retention in the same office for succeeding terms.
   Beginning July 1,2020, five of the Supreme Court Judicial Districts will be selected according to the boundaries of the five current Congressional Districts. Four of the other Justices Districts will be at large districts.
   Beginning July 1, 2010, the state will be divided into five Court of Criminal Appeals Judicial Districts. The boundaries of these five districts shall be the boundaries of the five Oklahoma Congressional Districts as constituted on January 8, 2019. It also provides that current Judges retain office and are eligible for retention in the same office for succeeding years.

   HB 2366 becomes effective January 1, 2020.

4. HB 2670 This bill creates the Pay for Success Act ("Act"). This Act states that it is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature to authorize innovation opportunities in the form of pay-for-success contracts and authorizes success payments to be made from appropriated or other agency funds. This Act will permit agencies to enter into pay for success contracts with private entities to receive up front capital to fund a service or program of the private entity. To receive such state funds, the state agency will need to enter into a contract to determines with reasonable certainty that the contract will result in a public benefit to the state.

   This bill creates the Pay for Success Innovation Fund ("Fund") that will consist of all monies designated for state agencies to use the Fund to fulfill the goals of the Act and the Fund. Other such money may be available to the Office of Management and Enterprises Services ("OME") for the purpose of funding pay for success contracts. It provides that OME to make payment to private entities for the delivery of performance targets and measures at the direction of the agency engaged in the contract.

5. SB 001 This bill will create the Legislative Office of Fiscal Transparency ("LOFT"). LOFT will assist the Legislature in performing its constitutional and statutory function of ensuring that government funds are expended in a fiscally responsible manner. It creates an oversight committee with equal members from the House and Senate. This oversight committee will examine the operations of LOFT.

LOFT shall gather information regarding the proposed budgets of

executive branch agencies. LOFT shall analyze the information and evaluate the extent to which the agency's budget does or does not fulfill the agency's primary duties and responsibilities under the applicable provisions of federal, state or other law.

This bill will require each agency or institution to make available any records deemed necessary. It declares all "records, documents, materials, or other information" of the LOFT office a record of the Legislature. It requires each state agency and other affected persons to coordinate with the oversight committee and LOFT. The oversight committee has the power/authority to conduct hearings, administer oaths and compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of information as provided in the statute.

The oversight committee will make recommendation to the agency evaluated, or the Legislature and Governor for further action deemed necessary.

6. SB 198 This bill requires all state agencies and all political subdivision to adopt a social networking and social media policy utilizing the guidelines established by this law. These guidelines shall apply to all state employees and employees of any political subdivision of this state who utilize social media or social networking for work purposes .It requires policies to discourage the sharing of content or comments by state employees and employees of any political subdivision of this state containing the following, when directed at a citizen of the State of Oklahoma: obscene sexual content or links to obscene sexual content, abusive behavior and bullying language or tone, conduct or encouragement of illegal activity, intentional dishonest conduct that could potentially result in harm to a citizen of this state and disclosure of information which an agency and its employees are required to keep confidential by law, regulation or internal policy.

   Each state agency and political subdivision of this state who developed social media and social networking policies shall distribute such policies to each affected employee by email. The state or political subdivision shall not be liable if a loss or claim results from an action undertaken in their discretion pursuant to the provisions of this law.

7. HB 2465 This bill prohibits state employees from being required to use compensatory time accrued instead of sick leave if the employee has sufficient hours available. This bill prohibits agencies from adjusting state employees workweeks in order to reduce his or her potential accrual of hours in the same week in which the hours might be accrued. HB 2465 permits the state agency to require the state employee to get preapproval for overtime but shall always pay the state employee for overtime worked. This bill sets the threshold for state employees to receive overtime pay at a salary of $31,000 or less.

8. HB 2118 This bill relates to setback requirements for wind energy facilities. If an owner of a wind energy facility fails to submit an active Determination of No Hazard and documentation that adverse impacts to the United States Department of Defense have been resolved by the Clearinghouse for the individual wind turbine or other individual structure prior starting construction, the owner can be subject to administrative penalty. In addition, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission or the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission may institute an action in any court of general jurisdiction to prevent, restrain, or abate any violation of certain section of the law other than Corporation Commission actions for submissions or attestations.
   The determination of No Hazard and documentation of the resolution of adverse impacts to the Department of Defense shall be filed with the Oklahoma Aeronautic Commission and the Oklahoma Corporation of Commission.

9. SB 0261 This bill authorizes the Secretary of the State Election Board to direct the secretary of a county election board to conduct a post-election audit of election results. The purpose of this audit is to maintain the security of the election system by ensuring that voting devices and software used in a particular election correctly tabulated the votes. It requires the Secretary of State Election board to determine the method, timing and procedures for conducting a post-election audit. The Secretary of the State Election Board is authorized to employ such security measures as necessary to protect the voting devices, election system or voter registration system and associated hardware or networks of these systems from cybersecurity threats or physical security threats.

This bill makes it a mandatory duty of the county commissioners to take, at county expense, the necessary security measures to ensure the county election board office is adequately protected from physical and electronic intrusions and attacks. The bill requires the county commissioners to implement, at county expense, security measures at the county election board that are equivalent to security measures provides at the other county agencies of that county.

The Secretary of the Election shall have the authority to enforce the requirements of these new sections of law.

10. HB 1292 This bill designates and adopts Rosette Nebula as the astronomical object of the State of Oklahoma.