

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution, I have vetoed Enrolled Senate Bill 54.

This legislation seeks to expand penalties and mandatory sentencing requirements for individuals convicted of driving under the influence, particularly in aggravated cases or for repeat offenses. While I share the Legislature's commitment to public safety and to holding impaired drivers accountable, I cannot support this bill in its current form.

Under current law, aggravated DUI is a misdemeanor, triggered only when a driver's blood alcohol content (BAC) is 0.15 or higher. Senate Bill 54 would elevate aggravated DUI to a felony and significantly broaden its scope. A driver could now face felony charges not just for a high BAC, but for conduct such as causing a property-damage accident of over \$500, crossing the center line, speeding more than 20 miles per hour over the limit, or simply having a passenger under the age of 18.

Additionally, the bill removes meaningful judicial discretion by mandating jail time and increasing financial penalties, regardless of the individual circumstances of the offense. Our courts must be able to consider the facts of each case and tailor sentences accordingly—especially for nonviolent and first-time offenders. Imposing one-size-fits-all penalties risks unjust outcomes and unnecessary incarceration.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Enrolled Senate Bill 54.