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**PARDON AND PAROLE BOARD**

**News Release**

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**2026 Pardon and Parole Board Legislation**

**(OKLAHOMA CITY, OK)** - The Pardon and Parole Board is grateful to the Oklahoma Legislature for passage of Senate Bill 1224. This law change will enable the Board to notify victims by email and text message about upcoming hearings, modernizing how the Board ensures that victims are heard before decisions are made. The Board especially thanks Senator Darcy Jech for sponsoring this important bill, and for supporting the Board throughout the legislative session.

Conversely, it is regrettable that Senate Bill 1330 did not receive a floor vote before the House of Representatives adjourned for the year. Senate Bill 1330 would have increased Board members' statutory salaries to reflect inflation since the members' salaries were last adjusted in 2002. Every month, the Pardon and Parole Board casts hundreds of votes on parole recommendations, sentence commutations, pardons, and death row cases. In preparation, Board members spend countless hours reviewing investigative reports detailing serious crimes across the state. The Board hears directly from the victims of those crimes, as well as those advocating for mercy and redemption for the condemned. Board members do their work as a public service, but the work demands significant time and responsibility and deserves fair compensation.

It is unclear why Senate Bill 1330 remained among roughly 20 measures not brought to the House floor when it adjourned two weeks early, despite the Legislature's overwhelming approval of Senate Bill 1156 to fund the measure. However, concerns emerged once Senate Bill 1330 was engrossed to the House, and attempts to understand those concerns did not produce clear answers. Nonetheless, Oklahoma's Constitution forbids the Pardon and Parole Board from considering its business in a political context, and the Board will respectfully reiterate this request with the hope of receiving full consideration in 2027.