

**BILL SUMMARY**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 60<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>HB 2426</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>Introduced</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	<b>11611</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Rep. Fetgatter</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>2/3/2025</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Research Analysis**

HB 2426 as introduced, creates the professional severe weather tracker license and provides guidelines for professional severe weather trackers. A *professional severe weather tracker* is defined in the measure as a licensed individual or company hired by an established television media outlet or affiliated with a research program at certain universities. Licenses are issued by the Insurance Department with an initial fee not to exceed \$500 and a renewal fee of \$250. Violators are subject to a fine up to \$500 and revocation of their license.

Professional severe weather trackers are required to:

- Keep their license on file with either their employing media outlet or affiliated university;
- Display their license number and either the Federal Communications Commission license number of the employing media outlet or the identifying number of the affiliated university on both sides of their primary storm tracking vehicle;
- Pass a criminal background check;
- Provide the Insurance Department with a recommendation letter from either the chief meteorologist of the employing media outlet or the dean of the meteorology program at the affiliated university;
- Provide the Insurance Department with valid insurance coverage for the storm tracking vehicle; and
- If employed by a media outlet, have been employed or contracted with a media outlet for at least five years.

During a significant weather event, professional severe weather trackers are considered an emergency vehicle and are authorized to activate flashing red and blue emergency lights on their vehicles and travel on closed roads and highways.

Lastly, the measure creates the Severe Weather Tracker Licensure Fund in which all monies collected from license fees are to be deposited for the administrative costs associated with licensing professional severe weather trackers.

Prepared By: Keana Swadley

**Fiscal Analysis**

HB 2426 creates the Oklahoma Emergency Weather Response and Tracking Regulatory Act of 2025 and the Severe Weather Tracker Licensure Fund. Furthermore, the measure delegates the authority pursuant to the act to the Oklahoma Insurance Department (OID). OID is a non-appropriated state agency, and the administrative costs related to such licensure will be offset by

the associated licensing fees. Therefore, all costs are expected to be absorbed by the state agency's budget rather than the state budget.

Prepared By: Zach Lein, House Fiscal Staff

**Other Considerations**

None.

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