

**FLOOR AMENDMENT**  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
State of Oklahoma

SPEAKER:

CHAIR:

I move to amend HB2426 \_\_\_\_\_  
Of the printed Bill  
Page \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ Lines \_\_\_\_\_  
Of the Engrossed Bill

By deleting the content of the entire measure, and by inserting in lieu thereof the following language:

**AMEND TITLE TO CONFORM TO AMENDMENTS**

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

Amendment submitted by: Scott Fetgatter

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reading Clerk

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 FLOOR SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 2426

6 By: Fetgatter of the House

7 and

8 Mann of the Senate

9 FLOOR SUBSTITUTE

10 An Act relating to emergency weather response;  
11 creating the Oklahoma Severe Weather Media Tracking  
12 and Research Regulatory Act of 2025; defining terms;  
13 requiring professional severe weather tracker's  
14 vehicles meet certain criteria; authorizing Service  
15 Oklahoma to create certain license; stating  
16 requirements for professional severe weather  
17 trackers; providing for licensing and renewal fees;  
18 directing deposit of certain collected fees;  
19 authorizing Service Oklahoma to provide punishment  
20 for violations; providing Service Oklahoma with  
21 certain discretion for suspension or revocation of  
22 licenses; requiring certain return of license;  
23 requiring Service Oklahoma promulgate certain rules;  
24 providing for the application of certain act;  
creating the Severe Weather Tracker Licensure Fund;  
stating type of fund; stating purpose of fund;  
authorizing expenditures from fund; requiring  
vehicles have certain identification and equipment;  
making certain authorizations for professional severe  
weather trackers; establishing provisions for severe  
weather tracking during certain significant weather  
events; exempting professional severe weather  
trackers from certain traffic regulations under  
certain circumstances; providing exceptions to  
certain granted exemptions; requiring use of certain  
flashing lights; requiring professional severe  
weather trackers not drive recklessly; stating other  
drivers not required to yield or stop for

1 professional severe weather trackers; prohibiting  
2 certain actions; providing for fines and revocation  
3 of license; stating fines or revocation shall be in  
4 addition to other penalties; allowing storm chasing  
5 without a license; restricting use of license to  
6 certain purposes; providing for codification; and  
7 providing an effective date.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

9 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 19-300 of Title 47, unless there  
11 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Severe  
13 Weather Media Tracking and Research Regulatory Act of 2025".

14 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 19-301 of Title 47, unless there  
16 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 As used in the Oklahoma Severe Weather Media Tracking and  
18 Research Regulatory Act of 2025:

19 1. "Field research team" shall mean a privately funded research  
20 team in the field of meteorology and sanctioned by a Doctor or  
21 principle researcher of the National Science Foundation or National  
22 Institute of Science and Technology;

23 2. "Professional severe weather tracker" shall mean a licensed  
24 individual or company hired or contracted via a qualified media  
outlet, or in a reserve role of up to two (2) years of inactivity

1 with a qualified media outlet, or is affiliated with a research  
2 program at a qualified institution for higher education;

3 3. "Professional severe weather tracker's primary vehicle"  
4 shall mean a primary vehicle which complies with the provisions of  
5 the Oklahoma Severe Weather Media Tracking and Research Regulatory  
6 Act of 2025, and defined further in Section 3 of this act;

7 4. "Qualified institution for higher education" shall mean any  
8 college or university regulated by the Oklahoma State Regents for  
9 Higher Education who offers a course or program in meteorology,  
10 including federal or state research programs in the field of severe  
11 weather, which shall include vehicles gathering atmospheric  
12 conditions and radar vehicles;

13 5. "Qualified media outlet" shall mean a commercial television  
14 or radio station licensed by the Federal Communication Commission  
15 for the broadcast or transmission of television programming via  
16 broadcast, cable, streaming, or other platforms as recognized by the  
17 Federal Communications Commission; and

18 6. "Significant weather event" shall mean:

19 a. a confirmed tornado or tornado emergency which wholly  
20 or partially covers one or more counties located in  
21 the State of Oklahoma issued by the National Oceanic  
22 and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National  
23 Weather Service Storm Prediction Center,

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- 1           b.    a confirmed tornado or tornado emergency which covers  
2                    any county within a neighboring state, in which such  
3                    county borders the State of Oklahoma, issued by the  
4                    National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's  
5                    National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center,  
6            c.    red flag fire warning issued by the NOAA National  
7                    Weather Service or the Oklahoma Forestry Services of  
8                    the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and  
9                    Forestry, or  
10           d.   flash flood warning or flood warning issued by the  
11                    NOAA National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center.

12           SECTION 3.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
13 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-148.1 of Title 47, unless  
14 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

15           Any vehicle categorized as a professional severe weather  
16 tracker's primary vehicle as defined in the Oklahoma Severe Weather  
17 Media Tracking and Research Regulatory Act of 2025 shall:

18           1.   Be authorized to be equipped with a combination of green and  
19 yellow flashing lights. The lights shall be visible at five hundred  
20 (500) feet in normal sunlight;

21           2.   Display markings clearly identifying such vehicle as being  
22 utilized for severe weather tracking and identifying the qualified  
23 media outlet or qualified institution of higher education with which  
24 the tracker is affiliated;

1 3. Cause to be displayed in sharp contrasting colors visible  
2 from fifty (50) feet, in conformance with the rules of Service  
3 Oklahoma, on both sides of such vehicle and as applicable:

4 a. the license number issued by Service Oklahoma and the  
5 Federal Communications Commission license number of  
6 the qualified media outlet with whom the tracker  
7 maintains the employment or contractual relationship,  
8 or

9 b. the license number issued by Service Oklahoma, as well  
10 as an identifying number developed by Service Oklahoma  
11 for qualified institutions of higher education; and

12 4. Not be violative of the provisions of subsection B of  
13 Section 264 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes as it relates to  
14 restrictions on utilizing insignia from law enforcement agencies to  
15 influence traffic enforcement and shall not be violative of other  
16 provisions of law.

17 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 19-302 of Title 47, unless there  
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. Service Oklahoma shall be authorized to create a  
21 professional severe weather tracker license.

22 B. Any professional severe weather tracker employed or  
23 contracted with by any qualified media outlet shall be eligible to  
24

1 apply for a license authorized in this subsection. Such licensee  
2 shall:

3 1. Cause a copy of his or her license issued by Service  
4 Oklahoma to be kept on file with such outlet;

5 2. Ensure the professional severe weather tracker's primary  
6 vehicle conforms with the requirements of Section 3 of this act;

7 3. Shall have been employed or contracted with a qualified  
8 media outlet no less than one (1) year and shall not have been  
9 terminated for cause by a qualified media outlet in the last four  
10 (4) years;

11 4. Submit to an electronic national criminal history record  
12 check pursuant to Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma  
13 Statutes;

14 5. Supply Service Oklahoma with a letter from the hiring entity  
15 of the qualified media outlet stating the belief of such hiring  
16 entity that the prospective professional severe weather tracker  
17 possesses the knowledge, experience, and training to exercise the  
18 privileges and duties of the license responsibly;

19 6. Provide a copy of valid and continuing insurance coverage as  
20 required by Sections 7-101 et seq. of Title 47 of the Oklahoma  
21 Statutes to Service Oklahoma;

22 7. Take an emergency driving course provided by an institute of  
23 higher education, a technology center school district, or a private  
24 instructor who is certified by the Council on Law Enforcement

1 Education and Training before receiving a license and upon every  
2 renewal; and

3 8. Carry minimum vehicle insurance of One Million Dollars  
4 (\$1,000,000.00) of combined single liability or other coverage of  
5 the same amount.

6 C. Any professional severe weather tracker employed, contracted  
7 with, or otherwise affiliated with any qualified institution for  
8 higher education shall be eligible to apply for a license authorized  
9 in this subsection. Such licensee shall:

10 1. Cause a copy of his or her license issued by Service  
11 Oklahoma to be kept on file with the dean, director, or other  
12 designated individual by the institution who shall be responsible  
13 for the maintenance of records associated with the institution's  
14 meteorology program;

15 2. Ensure the professional severe weather tracker's vehicle  
16 conforms with the requirements of Section 3 of this act;

17 3. Submit to an electronic national criminal history record  
18 check pursuant to Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma  
19 Statutes;

20 4. Supply Service Oklahoma with a letter from the dean,  
21 director, or other designated individual by the institution who  
22 shall be responsible for the maintenance of records associated with  
23 the institution's meteorology program stating the belief of such  
24 person that the prospective professional severe weather tracker

1 possesses the knowledge, experience, and training to exercise the  
2 privileges and duties of the license responsibly;

3 5. Provide a copy of valid and continuing insurance coverage as  
4 required by Sections 7-101 et seq. of Title 47 of the Oklahoma  
5 Statutes to Service Oklahoma;

6 6. Take an emergency driving course provided by an institute of  
7 higher education, a technology center school district, or a private  
8 instructor who is certified by the Council on Law Enforcement  
9 Education and Training before receiving a license and upon every  
10 renewal; and

11 7. Carry minimum vehicle insurance of One Million Dollars  
12 (\$1,000,000.00) of combined single liability or other coverage of  
13 the same amount.

14 D. Any professional severe weather tracker who is a member of a  
15 field research team as defined in Section 2 of this act and is led  
16 by an individual who has received his or her Doctorate of  
17 Meteorology shall be eligible to apply for a license authorized in  
18 this subsection. Such licensee shall:

19 1. Cause a copy of his or her license issued by Service  
20 Oklahoma to be kept on file with the Doctor or other designated  
21 individual by the Doctor who shall be responsible for the  
22 maintenance of records associated with the research being conducted;

23 2. Ensure the professional severe weather tracker's primary  
24 vehicle conforms with the requirements of Section 3 of this act;

1           3. Submit to an electronic national criminal history record  
2 check pursuant to Section 150.9 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma  
3 Statutes;

4           4. Supply Service Oklahoma with a copy of the completion of the  
5 Doctor's doctoral degree in the field of meteorology, a copy of the  
6 funding statement from or scope of research to be performed for the  
7 National Science Foundation or National Institute of Science and  
8 Technology, and a letter from the Doctor attesting the applicant is  
9 a member of the research team;

10          5. Provide a copy of valid and continuing insurance coverage  
11 for the vehicle as required by Section 7-101 et seq. of Title 47 of  
12 the Oklahoma Statutes to Service Oklahoma;

13          6. Take an emergency driving course provided by an institution  
14 of higher education, a technology center school district, or a  
15 private instructor who is certified by the Council on Law  
16 Enforcement Education and Training before receiving a license and  
17 upon renewal; and

18          7. Carry minimum vehicle insurance of One Million Dollars  
19 (\$1,000,000.00) of combined single liability, or other coverage of  
20 the same amount.

21          E. The fees for a license issued pursuant to this section shall  
22 be sufficient to only cover the costs of the implementation and  
23 administration of this act, however under no circumstances shall the  
24 fee authorized in this subsection exceed Five Hundred Dollars

1 (\$500.00) for a three-year license for the initial application and  
2 shall expire at the end of the calendar year of the third year. The  
3 fee for any subsequent renewal shall be Two Hundred Fifty Dollars  
4 (\$250.00) for any subsequent renewal.

5 F. Service Oklahoma shall issue a letter of reprimand, cancel,  
6 suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew the license of an  
7 operator when it finds the licensee or applicant has not complied  
8 with or has violated any of the provisions of the Oklahoma Severe  
9 Weather Media Tracking and Research Regulatory Act of 2025, or any  
10 rules adopted by Service Oklahoma. A suspension or revocation shall  
11 be for a period of time deemed appropriate by Service Oklahoma for  
12 the violation. Any canceled, suspended, or revoked license shall be  
13 returned to Service Oklahoma by the licensee, and the licensee shall  
14 not be eligible to apply for another license until the period of  
15 suspension or revocation has elapsed.

16 G. Service Oklahoma shall promulgate rules to effectuate the  
17 provisions of this act.

18 H. The provisions of the Oklahoma Administrative Procedures Act  
19 shall apply to the implementation and administration of this act.

20 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 19-303 of Title 47, unless there  
22 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund  
24 for Service Oklahoma to be designated the "Severe Weather Tracker

1 Licensure Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject  
2 to fiscal year limitations. All monies accruing to the credit of  
3 the fund are hereby appropriated and shall be budgeted and expended  
4 by Service Oklahoma for the restricted purposes of the monies as  
5 prescribed by law. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon  
6 warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as  
7 prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of Management and  
8 Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

9 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 19-304 of Title 47, unless there  
11 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12 A. Professional severe weather tracker's primary vehicles shall  
13 comply with the marking provisions of Section 3 of this act.

14 B. Once the conditions of a significant weather event have been  
15 met, a professional severe weather tracker located in the area for  
16 which the significant weather event is located may:

17 1. Activate the visual signals authorized by Section 3 of this  
18 act;

19 2. Travel upon roads, highways, and county roads closed by the  
20 Department of Transportation, the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority, any  
21 city or county, or any law enforcement agency by reason of  
22 conditions triggered by the significant weather event. Provided,  
23 upon the determination by any law enforcement officer that the  
24 conditions which caused such closure present too grave a risk for

1 the life and safety of the professional severe weather tracker, law  
2 enforcement may prevent the continued travel upon or entry to any  
3 closed road;

4 3. Proceed past a red light or traffic control signal as  
5 defined in Section 1-178 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes, but  
6 only after coming to a complete stop and ensuring the absence of  
7 cross traffic;

8 4. Exceed the maximum speed limits so long as speeding does not  
9 endanger life or property;

10 5. Disregard regulations governing direction of movement; and

11 6. Disregard regulations governing turning in specified  
12 directions.

13 C. The exemptions granted to a professional severe weather  
14 tracker in this section shall apply only when the tracker is  
15 properly and lawfully making use of flashing green and yellow lights  
16 or a combination of flashing green and yellow lights meeting the  
17 requirements of Section 3 of this act.

18 D. The provisions of this section shall not limit the liability  
19 of a professional severe weather tracker. The provisions of this  
20 section shall not relieve the professional severe weather tracker  
21 from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all  
22 persons, nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the  
23 consequences of reckless disregard for the safety of others.

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1 E. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require that  
2 any motor vehicle yield right-of-way and stop for any professional  
3 severe weather tracker.

4 F. Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize a  
5 professional severe weather tracker to impersonate a law enforcement  
6 officer or first responder, or to block roads or prevent the free  
7 and regular flow of traffic upon the roads of this state.

8 G. Nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt a  
9 professional severe weather tracker from obligation to yield right-  
10 of-way and stop for authorized emergency vehicles, as prescribed in  
11 Section 1-103 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

12 SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
13 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 19-305 of Title 47, unless there  
14 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

15 Any professional severe weather tracker found to be in violation  
16 of the provisions of this act shall be subject to a fine, not to  
17 exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), and revocation of his or her  
18 license by Service Oklahoma.

19 Such fine or revocation shall be in addition to any criminal or  
20 civil penalties that the professional severe weather tracker may be  
21 subject to for any other violations of the laws of this state.

22 SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 19-306 of Title 47, unless there  
24 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1        Nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit or limit the  
2 rights of any individual from engaging in recreational or commercial  
3 storm chasing who is not in possession of or eligible to receive a  
4 license authorized by this act. However, a license received  
5 pursuant to this act shall not be used for the purpose of getting a  
6 better filming location. The license shall only be used for the  
7 purposes of keeping up with a storm or its conditions and traveling  
8 through restricted locations, not to restricted locations.

9        SECTION 9. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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11        60-1-13329        JBH        03/13/25

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