

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

HOUSE  
RESOLUTION 1018

By: Turner

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution recognizing the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as the premier law enforcement investigative agency of the state and for its service to the citizens of Oklahoma.

WHEREAS, in 1924, Deputy United States Marshal Bill Tilghman was shot in the line of duty, and in 1925, Governor Martin Edwin Trapp recommended the creation of an agency of special investigators to combat outlaws within the state, ultimately fulfilling the concept that Deputy United States Marshal Bill Tilghman had put forth in prior years; and

WHEREAS, the State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, now known as the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, was created on March 28, 1925. The Oklahoma Legislature appropriated Seventy-eight Thousand Dollars (\$78,000.00) to the State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation in its first year; and

1       WHEREAS, one year after its creation, the State Bureau of  
2 Criminal Identification and Investigation was credited with reducing  
3 the number of bank robberies in the state by seventy-five percent  
4 (75%). Agents accomplished this impressive feat by developing leads  
5 while using informants. The use of informants was an investigative  
6 technique considered innovative by many experts across the nation.  
7 These early years established the State Bureau of Criminal  
8 Identification and Investigation as the premier investigative law  
9 enforcement agency in Oklahoma, a foundation that has stood the test  
10 of time for a century; and

11       WHEREAS, in 1939, the State Bureau of Criminal Identification  
12 and Investigation became a division of the Department of Public  
13 Safety and was renamed the State Crime Bureau. This arrangement  
14 lasted until 1957, when it was placed under the direct control of  
15 the Office of the Governor and renamed the Oklahoma State Bureau of  
16 Investigation (OSBI); and

17       WHEREAS, the OSBI remained under the direct control of the  
18 Governor until 1976, when state leaders sought ways to reduce  
19 political pressures due to the OSBI being tasked with numerous  
20 political investigations. The Oklahoma Legislature created a seven-  
21 member, independent commission to oversee the activities of the  
22 OSBI; and

23       WHEREAS, a unique aspect of the OSBI is its limited  
24 jurisdiction. This keeps the OSBI from launching its own

1 investigations without a lawful request. With a few exceptions in  
2 which the OSBI does have original jurisdiction, most investigations  
3 are initiated at the request of another law enforcement agency or a  
4 governmental entity. The OSBI has original jurisdiction in the  
5 following areas: vehicle theft, oil field theft, threats against  
6 public officials, violations of the Oklahoma Computer Crimes Act,  
7 and violent crimes committed on the turnpikes of the state; and

8 WHEREAS, created in 1953, the Criminalistics Services Division  
9 of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation provides a multitude  
10 of forensic science services to law enforcement agencies operating  
11 within Oklahoma. The Criminalistics Services Division provides  
12 services out of two strategically located laboratories throughout  
13 the state, with locations in Tahlequah and Edmond. In addition,  
14 forensic evidence can be submitted at facilities in McAlester,  
15 Lawton, and Woodward; and

16 WHEREAS, the Forensic Science Center (FSC) in Edmond, a state-  
17 of-the-art, eighty-thousand-square-foot facility, was completed in  
18 May of 2008. The location of the FSC allows the OSBI to partner  
19 with professors and students in the Forensic Science program at the  
20 University of Central Oklahoma. This partnership creates  
21 opportunities for continued training of our scientists by members of  
22 academia, education of students by our forensic professionals, and  
23 internships for students; and

1       WHEREAS, the OSBI is also the central repository for all  
2 criminal records in Oklahoma and is responsible for collecting data  
3 ranging from statewide crime statistics to information for criminal  
4 history checks. From processing state and national criminal record  
5 check requests, to producing statistical publications, to issuing  
6 licenses under the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act, the OSBI helps  
7 protect, inform, and support the public and law enforcement.

8       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
9 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 60TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

10       THAT for one hundred (100) years, the OSBI has been utilizing  
11 creative and innovative investigative techniques and, with the  
12 expertise of experienced agents, solved the most serious crimes in  
13 Oklahoma.

14       THAT with respect to technology and scientific capabilities, the  
15 OSBI leverages cutting-edge investigative techniques including, but  
16 not limited to, digital and video forensics, Rapid DNA analysis,  
17 drones, forensic genetic genealogy, advanced latent evidence methods  
18 such as vacuum metal deposition and RECOVER, 3D crime scene  
19 scanning, and the FastTRAX NIBIN investigative lead program for  
20 ballistic comparisons, to carry on the tradition of proudly serving  
21 the citizens of Oklahoma as the premier law enforcement  
22 investigative agency of the state.

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24       60-1-13355       GRS       03/25/25