



Oklahoma Bondsman Association

Talking Points for SB 1251

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- OBA supports Senate Bill 1251 by Sen. James Leewright. This measure serves to create a more effective and efficient bail bond process, while protecting the community and decreasing flight risk.
- Under the provisions of the bill, a bond will be exonerated in any case in which there is an added charge, or an amended charge, that would result in a higher fine or longer term of sentence if convicted.
- If the same bondsman or insurer posts the bond on the added or amended charges, then any premium paid by the defendant on the original charge would be credited to the new bond.
- For example, under current law, let's say a person is arrested is on what the officer thinks is a first DUI, but it is found later by the DA that actually it is their third DUI offense, or perhaps a victim dies and a manslaughter charge is added. The DA upgrades the charges against that defendant, but the bond is not upgraded with it. That person who may have had a \$100,000 bond is now out of jail on a \$5,000 bond.
- Needless to say, this increases their flight risk and makes them a higher-risk defendant. With manslaughter charges, for example, skipping out on a \$5,000 bond could look like a bargain.
- Under this bill, that original bond is exonerated and the defendant would effectively need to bond out again, at a greater cost to them. This puts the cost of those additional charges on the defendant, not on the bondsman or on the community.
- With this bill, bondsmen and our communities will realize time savings and decreased costs as defendants are required to bear a greater burden of responsibility in reporting and returning to court. As a result, this bill acts as a safeguard for our bondsmen, our communities and our courts.
- OBA encourages state legislators to consider the positive effects this bill could create, not just for our industry, but for our state and its residents. Senate Bill 1251 has the potential for not only improving the efficiency of bail bond processes, but also potentially creating cost savings for Oklahoma's taxpayers.