

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution, I have vetoed Enrolled House Bill 1250.

House Bill 1250 creates a revolving fund to provide grants to local law enforcement offices to test technology for pre-stop interactions between officers and drivers. That technology would allow citizens to submit “humanizing” information about physical or mental health impairments before a traffic stop occurs.

This bill is a solution in search of a problem, and appears to create a taxpayer-funded opportunity for a single company’s product. Regardless of one’s preferences and feelings, an officer must be able to conduct traffic stops. A text message or app doesn’t replace that. This proposal would add an unnecessary layer to traffic stops, create unrealistic expectations for officers and citizens, and spend taxpayer dollars on technology local law enforcement is unlikely to be able to use effectively. It also reflects a misguided belief that every law enforcement encounter should be filtered through claims of special status.

Additionally, there is concern that this company engaged in unregistered lobbying for their bill that promotes a product pushing woke values and special interests over public safety.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Enrolled House Bill 1250.