

Advising of her veto of **HB 1941** on April 15, 2013. The veto message reads as follows:

To the Honorable Speaker of the House
and Members of the House of Representatives
First Regular Session, Fifty-fourth Oklahoma Legislature

Enrolled House Bill No. **1941**

By: Bennett of the House and Allen of the Senate

This is to advise you that on this date, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution to approve or object to legislation presented to me, I have VETOED House Bill **1941**.

Current law requires bail bondsmen to reside in the county where they conduct business and only allows bondsmen to write bonds for no more than 10 defendants per year in the other 76 counties in the state ("Ten Bond Rule").

House Bill **1941** would allow bail bondsmen to write bonds in all counties in this state. While I am very supportive of the concept of free enterprise and the ability of bondsmen to conduct unlimited business across the state, there is pending litigation in the Oklahoma Supreme Court regarding the Ten Bond Rule. A lower state court in Sequoyah County has ruled that the Ten Bond Rule is unenforceable. The Oklahoma Supreme Court will determine whether the lower court's decision applies to all 77 counties in the state.

After a lawsuit has been commenced on an issue, Article 5, Section 52 of the Oklahoma Constitution prohibits the legislature from passing legislation to remove that issue from the court's consideration. I have thus been advised that House Bill **1941** may be unconstitutional; therefore, I believe this is not the appropriate time to pass legislation on this particular issue which may illegally impact the judicial process. For that reason, I cannot in good conscience sign it into law.

By the Governor of the State of Oklahoma

/s/ Mary Fallin