

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 1537

By: Dunnington of the House

3 and

4 Dossett of the Senate
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7 An Act relating to waters and water rights; making
8 legislative findings; imposing requirement on
9 municipalities with respect to inclined block rate
10 structures for water usage; providing for excessive
11 water usage surcharge; authorizing surcharge revenues
12 to be used for municipal water systems; excluding
13 certain waters; providing for codification; providing
14 for noncodification; and providing an effective date.

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

16 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
17 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

18 The Legislature finds that water is necessary for the residents
19 of the State of Oklahoma to enjoy a high quality of life. The
20 demand for drinking water and water for other household and
21 commercial uses is constantly increasing. Water conservation
22 measures are critical for the State of Oklahoma to maintain its
23 access to water and to sustain the lives of its citizens. The
24 Legislature finds that municipalities are an important means for the
delivery of water and that the price for water usage by
municipalities can have a positive impact on water conservation

1 efforts. To encourage municipalities to implement inclined block
2 rate structures for the delivery of water to persons and business
3 enterprises located within municipal boundaries, the Legislature
4 finds that a system which creates incentives for water conservation
5 is desirable state public policy and is in furtherance of an
6 essential state government function. Water and water quality, while
7 affected by actions of many persons and entities at the local level,
8 are both matters of statewide public concern.

9 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2001 of Title 82, unless there
11 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12 A. Effective January 1, 2019, each municipality within the
13 state shall implement an inclined block rate structure for use of
14 municipal water by persons, business entities and other users. The
15 municipality may retain all revenues derived from the sale of water
16 to each user.

17 B. Municipalities that implement an inclined block rate
18 structure may impose surcharges for a municipal water user that uses
19 more than twenty-five thousand (25,000) gallons of water per month.
20 Water use surcharge revenues may be used by the municipality or an
21 entity having the municipality as its beneficiary for municipal
22 water systems and related infrastructure assets.

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C. The provisions of this section shall not be applicable to water sold to any city, town, rural water district or nonprofit corporations that are engaged in the sale or resale of water.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective January 1, 2019.

Passed the House of Representatives the 21st day of March, 2017.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2017.

Presiding Officer of the Senate