

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                                   1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
5 FOR  
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1537

By: Dunnington of the House

and

Dossett of the Senate

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10                                   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

11                   An Act relating to waters and water rights; making  
12                   legislative findings; imposing requirement on  
13                   municipalities with respect to inclined block rate  
14                   structures for water usage; providing for excessive  
15                   water usage surcharge; authorizing surcharge revenues  
16                   to be used for municipal water systems; providing for  
17                   codification; providing for noncodification; and  
18                   providing an effective date.

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

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

22                   The Legislature finds that water is necessary for the residents  
23                   of the State of Oklahoma to enjoy a high quality of life. The  
24                   demand for drinking water and water for other household and  
                    commercial uses is constantly increasing. Water conservation

1 measures are critical for the State of Oklahoma to maintain its  
2 access to water and to sustain the lives of its citizens. The  
3 Legislature finds that municipalities are an important means for the  
4 delivery of water and that the price for water usage by  
5 municipalities can have a positive impact on water conservation  
6 efforts. To encourage municipalities to implement inclined block  
7 rate structures for the delivery of water to persons and business  
8 enterprises located within municipal boundaries, the Legislature  
9 finds that a system which creates incentives for water conservation  
10 is desirable state public policy and is in furtherance of an  
11 essential state government function. Water and water quality, while  
12 affected by actions of many persons and entities at the local level,  
13 are both matters of statewide public concern.

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

17 A. Effective November 1, 2017, each municipality within the  
18 state shall implement an inclined block rate structure for use of  
19 municipal water by persons, business entities and other users. The  
20 municipality may retain all revenues derived from the sale of water  
21 to each user.

22 B. Municipalities that implement an inclined block rate  
23 structure may impose surcharges for a municipal water user that uses  
24 more than twenty-five thousand (25,000) gallons of water per month.

1 Water use surcharge revenues may be used by the municipality or an  
2 entity having the municipality as its beneficiary for municipal  
3 water systems and related infrastructure assets.

4 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

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6 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated  
7 02/28/2017 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.  
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