

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 2263

By: Patzkowsky and McBride of  
the House

3 and

4 Murdock of the Senate  
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8 [ groundwater - creating the Groundwater Irrigation  
9 District Act - effective date ]  
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13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1021.1 of Title 82, unless there  
16 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Groundwater  
18 Irrigation District Act".

19 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1021.2 of Title 82, unless there  
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 As used in the Groundwater Irrigation District Act:

- 23 1. "Board" means the Oklahoma Water Resources Board;  
24 2. "District" means a groundwater irrigation district;

1        3. "District board" means the board of a groundwater irrigation  
2 district; and

3        4. "Permit holder" means a person who possesses a permit to use  
4 groundwater as provided for in Section 1020.11 of Title 82 of the  
5 Oklahoma Statutes.

6        SECTION 3.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1021.3 of Title 82, unless there  
8 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9        A. If eight percent (8%) of permit holders in a proposed  
10 groundwater irrigation district desire to provide for the assistance  
11 and procurement of conservation grant funding for groundwater  
12 irrigation of such irrigable lands, the holders may propose the  
13 organization of a groundwater irrigation district by petition  
14 pursuant to the Groundwater Irrigation District Act.

15        B. Groundwater irrigation districts shall be comprised of a  
16 whole county or whole counties adjacent to one another but shall  
17 only include permit holders who desire to participate in the  
18 district. Any permit holder who does not desire to participate in  
19 the district shall not be included upon a written document stating  
20 such to the district board.

21        C. Groundwater irrigation districts shall be designated  
22 political subdivisions of the state.

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1 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1021.4 of Title 82, unless there  
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 The petition shall be signed by the petitioners, filed with the  
5 county commissioners of a petitioning county and the county  
6 commissioners of a participating adjacent county within the proposed  
7 district, and shall contain the following information:

8 1. A specific description of the county or counties within the  
9 proposed district;

10 2. The names and addresses of all of the permit holders who  
11 have signed the petition within the proposed district as reflected  
12 by the permit records of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board;

13 3. The proposed plan of organization, operation and such  
14 additional data and information required by rules of the Board; and

15 4. A request that the district be organized.

16 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1021.5 of Title 82, unless there  
18 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 A. After receipt of the petition, the county commissioners and  
20 the county commissioners of any participating adjacent county shall:

21 1. Verify the authenticity of each signatory whose address is  
22 located within the county;

23 2. Coordinate with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and, if  
24 necessary, the adjacent counties to verify that eight percent (8%)

1 of permit holders within the proposed district have signed the  
2 petition; and

3 3. If all requirements of the petition are met, submit a  
4 request to the Board for the formation of the groundwater irrigation  
5 district.

6 B. After the county commissioners and the county commissioners  
7 of any participating adjacent county have submitted a request for  
8 the formation of a groundwater irrigation district, each county  
9 board of commissioners shall assign members of the initial district  
10 board. A county board of commissioners shall select three members  
11 representing groundwater irrigation users within the county. Each  
12 of the three members of the initial board shall be permit holders  
13 who irrigate in the county. If multiple counties reside within the  
14 district, each county shall have an equal representation of the  
15 three members on the district board.

16 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1021.6 of Title 82, unless there  
18 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 A. At the time and place established by the county  
20 commissioners and the county commissioners of any participating  
21 adjacent county for the first meeting of the initial district board,  
22 the initial district board shall adopt bylaws. In addition to any  
23 other provisions normally and properly included in bylaws, the  
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1 bylaws shall, at a minimum, include provisions regarding the  
2 following:

3 1. Establishing the district's name and principal place of  
4 business;

5 2. Requiring an annual meeting of the district board and  
6 providing that a notice of such annual meeting be given not less  
7 than fifteen (15) days prior to the annual meeting in newspapers  
8 that are published in counties within the district. If no newspaper  
9 is published in the county, the notice shall be posted in three  
10 public places in the county, one of which shall be the county  
11 courthouse; and

12 3. Requiring that the initial district board, pursuant to the  
13 provisions of this section, shall:

14 a. establish the composition of the district board,  
15 qualifications of the members and a process to elect a  
16 board of directors within one (1) year of the approval  
17 of the district by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board,  
18 b. set the district board members' terms of office, and  
19 c. elect a district board member as director of the  
20 district.

21 B. Following the first meeting of electors, the district board  
22 shall submit the initial bylaws to the Board for its approval or  
23 disapproval. The Board shall either approve or disapprove the  
24 bylaws within sixty (60) days after receiving written notification

1 and a copy of the bylaws from the board. The failure of the Board  
2 to disapprove the bylaws within sixty (60) days shall constitute  
3 approval.

4 SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
5 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1021.7 of Title 82, unless there  
6 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

7 The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall promulgate rules to  
8 enforce the provisions of the Groundwater Irrigation District Act.

9 SECTION 8. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.

10 Passed the House of Representatives the 5th day of March, 2019.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

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Passed the Senate the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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