

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 SENATE BILL 225

By: Boggs

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to waters and water rights; creating
8 the Regional Water Development Act; stating
9 Legislative findings promoting the development of
10 regional water projects; stating purpose; stating
11 construction; authorizing the Oklahoma Water
12 Resources Board to assist development of regional
13 water plans and projects; stating purpose of regional
14 water plans and projects; authorizing Oklahoma Water
15 Resources Board to promulgate rules; providing for
16 codification; providing for noncodification; and
17 declaring an emergency.

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

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

24 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Regional Water
Development Act.

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

1 The Legislature hereby declares that, in order to efficiently
2 utilize and orderly develop the water resources available within
3 each geographic region of this state for the benefit of our
4 citizens, the public policy of this state is to promote and support
5 the planning and development of long-term water projects on a
6 regional basis and to achieve this policy through the use of
7 programs and incentives that first seek to maximize the efficient
8 use of water resources available within each region. The
9 Legislature finds that prioritizing efforts to more efficiently
10 develop intra-regional water resources to meet intra-regional needs
11 is consistent with the provisions of Section 105.12 of Title 82 of
12 the Oklahoma Statutes and further advances the objectives of the
13 Water for 2060 Act, Section 1088.1 et seq. of Title 82 of the
14 Oklahoma Statutes. Provided, however, that nothing in this act
15 shall be construed as amending the provisions of law pertaining to
16 rights or permits to use water. Provided, further, that nothing in
17 this act shall be construed as prohibiting the transportation of
18 water for use outside the stream system wherein the water originates
19 pursuant to the conditions outlined in Section 105.12 of Title 82 of
20 the Oklahoma Statutes.

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

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1 A. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall dedicate staff and
2 resources, as available, to assist in the development of regional
3 water plans and projects in furtherance of this act, including, but
4 not limited to:

5 1. Promoting and assisting in the coordination of regional and
6 local water planning efforts;

7 2. Providing assistance in the formation of voluntary regional
8 water planning efforts;

9 3. Compiling and sharing information and providing available
10 technical resources to assist in such regional water planning
11 efforts; and

12 4. Coordinating potential federal state, tribal, local and
13 corporation partnership opportunities for financing and incentives
14 to develop regional plans, technical studies, and related projects.

15 B. Contingent upon funding available and in addition to the
16 general assistance described above, the Oklahoma Water Resources
17 Board may provide analysis or guidance regarding options available
18 for regional water plans.

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

22 Regional water plans and projects should be developed to
23 efficiently maximize the use of water resources within a region, and
24 should include, but not be limited to the following:

1 1. Voluntary consolidation and regionalization of existing
2 infrastructure and water supplies in order to utilize limited
3 resources most efficiently;

4 2. Maximizing existing reservoirs through activities such as
5 raising dams, reallocating existing storage pools, and/or the
6 dredging of reservoirs;

7 3. Increasing water storage and minimizing transportation and
8 evaporative losses of water used for agricultural purposes;

9 4. Managing or augmenting aquifer recharge rates through
10 activities such as the land application or injection of excess fresh
11 or recycled water; and

12 5. Implementing conservation measures, such as system water
13 loss audits, water reuse projects and system sustainability
14 projects.

15 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
16 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

17 The Oklahoma Water Resources Board is authorized to promulgate
18 rules as necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

19 SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
20 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
21 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
22 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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