

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 SENATE BILL 421

By: Brecheen

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to waters and water rights; creating
8 the Oklahoma Water Sustainability 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 certain
13 water plans and projects; stating purpose of regional
14 water plans and projects; authorizing the Board to
15 promulgate rules; providing for codification;
16 providing for noncodification; and declaring an
17 emergency.

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

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

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Water
Sustainability 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 to achieve
6 this policy through the use of programs and incentives that first
7 seek to maximize the efficient use of water resources available
8 within each region. The Legislature finds that prioritizing efforts
9 to more efficiently develop our state's water resources to meet the
10 needs of all areas within the state is consistent with the
11 provisions of Section 105.12 of Title 82 of the Oklahoma Statutes
12 and further advances the objectives of the Water for 2060 Act,
13 Section 1088.11 et seq. of Title 82 of the Oklahoma Statutes.
14 Provided, however, that nothing in this act shall be construed as
15 amending the provisions of law pertaining to rights or permits to
16 use water.

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

20 A. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall dedicate staff and
21 resources, as available, to assist in the development of water plans
22 and projects in furtherance of this act, including, but not limited
23 to:
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1 1. Promoting and assisting in the coordination of regional and
2 local water planning efforts;

3 2. Providing assistance in the formation of voluntary water
4 planning efforts;

5 3. Compiling and sharing information and providing available
6 technical resources to assist in such water planning efforts; and

7 4. Coordinating potential federal, state, tribal, local and
8 corporation partnership opportunities for financing and incentives
9 to develop plans, technical studies and related projects.

10 B. Contingent upon availability of funding and in addition to
11 the general assistance described above, the Oklahoma Water Resources
12 Board may provide analysis or guidance regarding options available
13 for development of water plans.

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

17 Water plans and projects should be developed to efficiently
18 maximize the use of water resources within this state, and should
19 include, but not be limited to the following:

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

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1 2. Maximizing existing reservoirs through activities such as
2 raising dams, reallocating existing storage pools and the dredging
3 of reservoirs;

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

6 4. Managing or augmenting aquifer recharge rates through
7 activities such as the land application or injection of excess fresh
8 or recycled water; and

9 5. Implementing conservation measures, such as system water
10 loss audits, water reuse projects and system sustainability
11 projects.

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

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

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

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