

ENGROSSED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 22

By: Long (Ed) of the Senate

and

Voskuhl of the House

A Concurrent Resolution relating to the creation of a Rural Water Task Force; stating membership; requiring appointments by certain date; providing for staff and travel reimbursement; stating purpose of task force; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, water is a vital natural resource to the State of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the orderly development and utilization of the state's water should be a high priority; and

WHEREAS, there are more than three hundred rural water districts and nonprofit rural water corporations providing water in the rural areas of the State of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, currently there are no guidelines relating to maximizing efficiency of water distribution systems; and

WHEREAS, it would be of great benefit to the State of Oklahoma to study the current practices governing rural water use and the competition between rural water districts and municipal water suppliers and recommend practices which would encourage prudent economic decisions, long-range planning and proper utilization of public roadway easements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT there is hereby created a legislative task force, to be named the Rural Water Task Force, to study and make recommendations concerning equitable competition between rural water districts, nonprofit rural water corporations, and municipal water systems providing retail water service in the rural areas of the State of Oklahoma.

THAT such task force shall consist of sixteen members, eight each to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The President Pro Tempore shall appoint the following: two members of the Oklahoma State Senate, two members who shall be members of the local governing body of a city or town, two members representing rural water districts within this state, one member who shall be a member of a city or county planning commission and one member who shall be a resident of a city or town of the State of Oklahoma. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint the following: two members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, two members who shall be members of the local governing body of a city or town, two members representing rural water districts within this state and two members who shall be rural residents of the State of Oklahoma.

THAT by July 1, 1993, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall name co-chairmen to serve as leaders of the Rural Water Task Force.

THAT staffing for such task force shall be provided by the staff of the Oklahoma State Senate, the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

THAT members of the task force shall be entitled to receive from their appointing authority any actual and necessary travel expenses to attend official meetings of the task force, in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act, Section 500.1 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

THAT the purpose of the Rural Water Task Force will be to study the broad policy implications of having controlled competition in the rural areas of the state between rural water districts and municipal water suppliers. The task force shall review existing statutes and make legislative recommendations as it deems appropriate. The task force may hear such public testimony as it deems appropriate and necessary to determine its recommendations for developing and implementing a state policy for providing public water supplies in rural areas of the State of Oklahoma.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Adopted by the Senate the 24th day of May, 1993.

President of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____, 1993.

Speaker of the House of Representatives