

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2547

By: Beutler of the House

and

Easley and Muegge of the
Senate

An Act relating to environment and natural resources; establishing the Joint Committee on Financing Environmental Infrastructure for Economic Development; providing for duties and purpose; providing for appointment, qualifications and terms; providing for staffing; providing for vacancies, meetings, officers and structure; providing for reimbursement; requiring certain report; limiting meetings; specifying termination of committee; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

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 1-3-102 of Title 27A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created until July 1, 1996, a legislative task force to be known as the Joint Committee on Financing Environmental Infrastructure for Economic Development. The purpose of the Committee is to investigate, analyze, review, study and make recommendations concerning the beneficial utilization and protection of the natural resources within this state by:

1. Examining and evaluating local needs for developing, constructing or improving drinking water systems, sewage treatment works and solid waste facilities, preventing nonpoint source water pollution from agricultural and other sources, and improving air quality;

2. Reviewing available revenue sources or developing new and innovative revenue sources for:

- a. developing, constructing or improving current and future local environmental infrastructure needs, including drinking water systems, sewage treatment systems, solid waste facilities, air quality control measures and nonpoint source controls,
- b. state needs for environmental regulatory and implementation costs in order to satisfy the environmental quality laws of the state and federal governments, and
- c. maximizing the potential for reduced environmental regulations through pollution prevention incentives and the promotion of partnerships between environmental concerns and economic development interests;

3. Examining and reviewing available revenue sources or new revenue sources for maximizing federal funds available to the state

for environmental and natural resource projects or responsibilities, and for mitigation of and response to environmental emergencies and environmental disasters;

4. Examining and reviewing available revenue sources or new revenue sources to provide an economic development matching incentive for clean industries for compliance beyond the federal minimum;

5. Examining state options for response to unfunded federal mandates as well as options to assure economic growth without sacrificing environmental quality; and

6. Evaluating and determining the need for developing a natural resource conservation and public works assistance fund as a funding mechanism for the projects and responsibilities specified in this section as well as developing a source of revenue for the fund.

B. The Committee shall be comprised of forty-four (44) members to be appointed on or before June 14, 1994. The first meeting of the Committee shall be on or before June 28, 1994. Staffing for the Committee shall be provided by the staff of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and by the staff of the Oklahoma State Senate.

C. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall each appoint one member of the Committee who shall also serve as co-chairpersons for the Committee.

D. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint twenty-two members of the Committee as follows:

1. Ten members shall be members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives;

2. One member shall be a representative of an organization which is a member of the State Chamber of Commerce;

3. One member shall be a representative of a company actively engaged in the disposal, transportation, processing or recycling of solid waste;

4. One member shall be a representative of a company generating a significant quantity of controlled industrial waste;

5. One member shall be a representative of farming and ranching interests who is a member of the Farm Bureau;

6. One member shall be a representative of a nonprofit statewide environmental organization;

7. One member shall be a representative who is a consulting engineer;

8. Three members shall be representatives of a municipality, a rural water district, and another small provider of public drinking water and waste disposal services, respectively. Such members shall be appointed from Oklahoma Congressional Districts 2, 3 and 4;

9. One member shall be a representative of a statewide rural water organization;

10. One member shall be a representative of the Association of Oklahoma County Commissioners; and

11. One member shall represent a political subdivision of the state who shall be a member of the governing body of a city or town.

E. The President Pro Tempore of the State Senate shall appoint twenty-two members of the Committee as follows:

1. Ten members shall be members of the Oklahoma State Senate;

2. One member shall be a representative of farming and ranching interests who is a member of the Oklahoma Farmers Union;

3. Three members shall be representatives of a municipality, a rural water district, and another small provider of public drinking water or waste disposal services, respectively. Such members shall be appointed from Oklahoma Congressional Districts 1, 5 and 6;

4. One member shall be a representative of a company actually engaged in the disposal, transportation, processing or recycling of solid waste;

5. One member shall be a municipal contractor;

6. One member shall represent a political subdivision of the state who shall be a member of the governing body of a city or town;

7. One member who shall be a consulting engineer;

8. One member who shall be on the teaching staff of an institution of higher learning;

9. One member shall be a representative of a statewide business advocate organization;

10. One member shall be a representative of a conservation district in this state; and

11. One member shall be a member of the Oklahoma Municipal League.

F. The directors of the State Department of Agriculture, the Oklahoma Development Finance Authority, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, the Department of Environmental Quality, and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board or their designees shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting members.

G. Except for representatives of public entities, no company or organization shall have more than one representative appointed to represent them on the Committee.

H. All departments, officers, agencies and employees of this state shall cooperate with the Committee in carrying out its duties and responsibilities, including providing any information, records and reports as may be requested by either co-chairperson of the Committee. Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma are requested to assist the Committee in fulfilling its duties. Said agencies and universities are requested to designate a liaison to the Committee to provide expertise, information and resources to the Committee.

I. The Committee may divide into subcommittees in furtherance of its purposes.

J. Any vacancies in the appointive membership of the Committee shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

K. A majority of the members appointed to the Committee shall constitute a quorum and a majority present at a meeting may act for the Committee.

L. The Committee shall actively seek and consider input from the public, the business community, environmental organizations, public interest organizations, trade groups, professional organizations, or any other group or persons who has an interest in public works, natural resources, infrastructure of this state and the work of the Committee. The Committee shall solicit and accept written comments, recommendations and proposals and shall hold public hearings to obtain comments from the public.

M. All members of the Committee shall be reimbursed their actual and necessary travel expenses as follows: Legislators on the Committee shall receive reimbursement in lieu of lodging and meals in the amount of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) per day and mileage as provided for in the State Travel Reimbursement Act. Nonlegislator members of the Committee shall be reimbursed in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act by their respective appointing bodies. All other expenses incurred by the Committee shall be divided equally between the Senate and the House of Representatives.

N. The Committee is hereby directed to present to the Governor, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, on or before January 3 of each year, a report of its findings and recommendations.

SECTION 2. General meetings of the Committee shall not exceed six per year.

SECTION 3. REPEALER Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall be repealed July 1, 1996.

SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the House of Representatives the 5th day of May, 1994.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 9th day of May, 1994.

President of the Senate