

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 616

By: Long (Ed) of the Senate

and

Voskuhl of the House

An Act relating to waters and water rights; creating the Oklahoma Water Resources Task Force; stating membership; stating purpose; providing duties; authorizing Task Force to make legislative recommendations; providing staff assistance; prohibiting salary for members of Task Force; authorizing travel reimbursement; providing for continuation of certain appointments; providing for termination of Task Force by certain date; 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 1700 of Title 82, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Water Resources Task Force, which shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Oklahoma Legislature.

B. The Oklahoma Water Resources Task Force shall consist of sixteen (16) 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. Any vacancies created by the resignation of any member shall be filled by the appointing authority.

C. 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 Oklahoma Water Resources Task Force.

D. The purpose of the Oklahoma Water Resources Task Force shall be, but is not limited to, the following: conducting in-depth reviews of drinking water and wastewater issues, surface water rights, regulatory requirements, infrastructure needs, funding sources, planning, information gathering, regionalization, territorial disputes and rate disputes.

E. The Oklahoma Water Resources Task Force shall make recommendations to the Legislature as it deems necessary.

F. The Oklahoma Water Resources Task Force shall have authority to explore and investigate funding sources for any activity or purpose necessary to accomplish its goals, including, but not limited to, public grants and donations from either public or private sources, and may make recommendations to the Legislature regarding such funding sources.

G. The Senate, the House of Representatives and any state agency as requested shall provide staff assistance necessary for the Oklahoma Water Resources Task Force to perform its functions.

H. No member of the Oklahoma Water Resources Task Force shall receive a salary for any duties performed as a member of said Task Force. Reimbursement for actual and necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties as a member of the Oklahoma Water Resources Task Force shall be paid by the appointing authority in accordance with the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act. Legislative members may be reimbursed pursuant to Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

I. The members of the Rural Water Task Force appointed pursuant to Enrolled Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22 of the 1st Session of the 44th Oklahoma Legislature may, at the discretion of the appointing authority, continue to serve on the Oklahoma Water Resources Task Force created pursuant to the provisions of this section.

J. The activities and operations of the Oklahoma Water Resources Task Force shall terminate no later than June 30, 1997.

SECTION 2. 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 Senate the 28th day of April, 1994.

President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 29th day of March, 1994.

Speaker of the House of Representatives