

SHORT TITLE: Waters and water rights; requiring rural water district board members to attend certain workshops; emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

SENATE BILL NO. 321

By: Easley

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to waters and water rights; amending 82 O.S. 1991, Section 1324.16, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 175, O.S.L. 1994 (82 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 1324.16), which relates to rural water district board member training; stating certain board members are ineligible to serve upon failure to attend certain workshops; stating procedures for selecting new board member; requiring such member to pledge training attendance; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 82 O.S. 1991, Section 1324.16, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 175, O.S.L. 1994 (82 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 1324.16), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1324.16 A. The term of office of every member elected to an original board shall be until the date of the annual meeting of the participating members of either the first, second or third year following the year of the incorporation of the district and until their successors are elected and have qualified, and as nearly as possible the terms of an equal number of directors on any such board shall expire on each of said dates. At the annual meeting of each year after the year of the election of the original board members, elections shall be held to elect directors to fill any

position on the board, the term of office of which has expired, and any director so elected shall hold office for a term of three (3) years and until ~~his~~ a successor is elected and has qualified. For the purpose of election of board members and for such other purposes as the bylaws may prescribe, annual meetings of participating members shall be held by each district each year following the year of incorporation of such district. The board of directors shall cause notice of the time and place of each annual meeting and the purpose thereof to be given to each of its participating members. Each participating member shall be entitled to a single vote, regardless of the number of benefit units to which ~~he~~ the member has subscribed.

B. ~~Provided, from January 1, 1995,~~ a A requirement for qualification to serve as a board member for a rural water district shall be a written pledge that upon election such board member shall attend a minimum of six (6) hours of workshop training to be offered periodically on a regional basis within twelve (12) months following election of such board member, and to be organized by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board in cooperation with the Oklahoma Rural Water Association with the purpose of study and instruction in areas of district financing, law, and the ethics, duties and responsibilities of district board members; provided further, that said requirement shall not apply to any board member who has had at least one (1) year of experience prior to the date of the board election as a member of the district board to which membership is sought. The district shall reimburse all reasonable expenses incurred by any board member for attending such training workshop. To avoid members having to interfere with their jobs or employment, such training sessions may be divided into three-hour segments, and insofar as possible be scheduled for evening sessions. Vocational-technical facilities, college facilities or other public facilities may be utilized in all parts of the state for convenience of the members.

Such workshops must be offered within seventy-five (75) miles of the members' residences.

C. Should any pledging board member fail to attend the workshop training as required in subsection B of this section, he or she shall be deemed ineligible to serve as a board member commencing at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board following the twelve-month period. The remaining board members shall select from the membership, as provided by the district bylaws, another qualified member to fill the vacancy and that person shall pledge to attend the workshop training provided for in this section.

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.

46-1-0360

MJM