

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

SENATE BILL 1677

By: Lerblance

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to waters and water rights; creating the Oklahoma Citizens Local Water Control Act; providing short title; creating citizens lake committees for certain lakes and reservoirs; stating membership; authorizing the Secretary of Environment to create certain committees; requiring appointment of members by the Governor by certain date; stating duties; requiring certain annual meeting; requiring members to serve without compensation; providing for certain travel reimbursement; requiring Secretary of Environment to solicit certain public comments and make legislative recommendations 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 900.1 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 Citizens Local Water Control Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 900.2 of Title 82, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created for each lake or reservoir in this state under the jurisdiction of the United State Corps of Engineers a Citizens Lake Committee which shall be advisory group of five persons who reside within the watershed area of each lake or reservoir. The Secretary of Environment shall be responsible for creating the initial committees pursuant to the provisions of this act and is authorized to direct the promulgation of any rules necessary to implement this act. The Office of the Secretary of

Environment shall be responsible for any administrative costs or travel reimbursement pursuant to this act.

B. No later than September 1, 2006, members of the individual Citizens Lake Committees created pursuant to subsection A of this section, shall be appointed by the Governor. The Governor shall strive to appoint members to represent recreation, tourism, rural and municipal water supplies, agriculture, fish, wildlife, marinas and other crucial local water related economic interests.

C. Each Citizens Lake Committee will be an active oversight committee for monitoring acceptable practical lake levels, roads and other lake or reservoir conditions and consulting with federal entities on such issues. Members shall meet with local, state and federal officials and agency representatives to discuss issues of importance regarding the management of the lake or reservoir. Annually the Governor shall call a meeting of all Citizens Lake Committees and the appropriate local, state and federal entities.

D. Members appointed to a Citizens Lake Committee shall serve without compensation but shall be eligible for actual and necessary travel reimbursement as provided by the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

E. The Secretary of Environment shall solicit public comments and recommendations relating to the duties of the Citizens Lake Committees and no later than December 15, 2006, the Secretary shall submit legislative recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature to carry out the provisions of this act.

SECTION 3. 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.