

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 51st Legislature (2008)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL 1627

6 By: Paddack

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 [water supplies - marginal-quality water technical
9 review group - emergency]

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

13 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
14 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

15 A. The Oklahoma Legislature hereby finds that:

16 1. Our state contains a relative wealth of both high- and
17 marginal-quality waters, both surface and ground;

18 2. Marginal-quality waters include brackish or saline
19 contaminated waters which result from natural or man-made
20 contamination which may be used or reused for many industrial
21 purposes;

22 3. Demands on and threats to high-quality water supplies pose
23 an increasingly pressing resource management challenge, a challenge
24 that will most prudently be addressed through a multi-stakeholder

1 approach that is based on current science-based assessments of
2 available technologies and regulatory systems; and

3 4. The Legislature would benefit from a study and evaluation of
4 those technologies and regulatory or management systems in place
5 elsewhere or otherwise being developed to maximize beneficially
6 useable supplies of marginal-quality water.

7 B. The Legislature hereby directs the Oklahoma Water Resources
8 Board, in the development of the update to the Oklahoma
9 Comprehensive Water Plan, to establish before September 1, 2008, a
10 marginal-quality water technical work group consisting of
11 representatives from the Department of Environmental Quality, the
12 Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry, the Oklahoma
13 Conservation Commission, the Department of Mines, the Corporation
14 Commission, the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board, the Commission on
15 Marginally Producing Oil and Gas Wells and any other state entity it
16 deems appropriate, and from the following stakeholder groups:
17 municipal governments, American Indian tribal governments,
18 agriculture industry, oil and gas industry, mining industry,
19 electrical power industry, rural water associations, hunting and/or
20 fishing groups and a statewide nonprofit environmental organization,
21 and in addition each member shall have demonstrated experience or
22 interest in one or more issues affecting water management, supply,
23 delivery, treatment, or rights.

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1 C. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board
2 or a designee shall chair the technical review group, and the
3 technical review group shall select from its membership a vice-
4 chair. Members shall serve without compensation but shall be
5 eligible for actual and necessary travel reimbursement in accordance
6 with the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

7 D. The technical review group shall:

8 1. Identify those municipal, industrial, business, or
9 environmental flow water needs that do not require the allocation or
10 consumption of high-quality water supplies;

11 2. Identify those marginal-quality water supplies that may be
12 available for potential development for such uses;

13 3. Study and examine how this state could effectively and
14 economically increase the available and beneficially useable supply
15 of marginal-quality water; and

16 4. Make recommendations on how best to utilize marginal-quality
17 water supplies which will improve the long-term and sustainable
18 management of our state's high-quality surface and ground water
19 supplies for the benefit of our citizens, economy, and environment.

20 E. To the greatest extent possible, the technical review group
21 shall provide information for use in the Oklahoma Comprehensive
22 State Water Plan update process.

23 F. The technical review group shall summarize its study,
24 examination, majority recommendations based thereon, and any

1 dissenting viewpoints in a report to be made part of the update to
2 the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan that shall be distributed to
3 the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
4 President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

5 G. Staff assistance for the technical review group shall be
6 provided by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2008.

8 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
9 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
10 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
11 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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