

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 1410

By: Paddack and Johnson
(Constance) of the Senate

and

Hilliard and Harrison of
the House

An Act relating to water; stating Legislative findings; directing the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to conduct certain demonstration projects relating to recharging water aquifers; requiring coordination with other entities; stating requirements for certain demonstration projects; providing for public and private funding; requiring Board to collect and publish certain data; providing for noncodification; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

A. The Oklahoma Legislature hereby finds that protection and conservation of our state's most precious natural resource, water, is our most important duty on behalf of the citizens of Oklahoma.

B. In an effort to meet future water supply challenges, the Legislature finds that measures should be implemented to address population growth needs for water supplies, future water and wastewater infrastructure costs, balance economic development and protection of the environment, satisfy competing water interests equitably, and reduce the state's vulnerability to droughts and flooding.

C. To address one of the potential solutions to future water supply challenges, the Legislature hereby directs the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, in the development of the update to the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan, to establish a technical work group to recommend demonstration projects and criteria to prioritize other projects designed to recharge various types of aquifers located in this state. The technical work group shall include representatives from the Robert S. Kerr Environmental Research Center of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Geological Survey, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Oklahoma Climatological Survey, the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University and any other governmental entity the Board deems necessary to recommend and prioritize the aquifer recharge demonstration projects.

D. The group shall review and consider the locations throughout the state where aquifer recharge demonstration projects may be most feasible to implement, with particular consideration given to each of the following types of aquifers:

1. Unconfined, alluvial aquifer;
2. Confined, sedimentary aquifer;
3. Unconfined, karst or fractured rock aquifer; and
4. Confined, karst or fractured rock aquifer.

E. Any state agency whose powers and duties are compatible with the demonstration projects recommended by the technical work group is authorized to contribute any available monies otherwise authorized by law to implement aquifer recharge demonstration projects, and private donations by any person, corporation or other governmental entity for such purpose may be accepted and shall be coordinated by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

F. As part of the update to the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall collect and analyze data resulting from any aquifer recharge projects authorized by this act and make such findings available to the Legislature, other governmental entities and the public in the update.

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 4th day of March, 2008.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 15th day of April, 2008.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives