

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 1627

By: Paddock of the Senate

and

Billy, Roan and Hilliard of
the House

An Act relating to water supplies; stating legislative findings; directing the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to establish a marginal-quality water technical work group; specifying representatives for the work group; providing for chair and vice-chair position and travel reimbursement; stating duties of the technical work group; directing the technical work group to provide certain information for certain process; requiring the technical work group to issue a report; providing for distribution; providing for staff assistance; providing for noncodification; providing an effective date; 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:

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

2. Marginal-quality waters include brackish or saline-contaminated waters which result from natural or man-made

contamination which may be used or reused for many industrial purposes;

3. The potential for increased use of marginal-quality water should be based on a science-based assessment of available technologies and regulatory systems; and

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

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

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

D. The technical work group shall:

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

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

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

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

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

F. The technical work group shall summarize its study, examination, majority recommendations based thereon, and any dissenting viewpoints in a report to be made part of the update to the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan that shall be distributed to the Governor, the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate.

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

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

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.

Passed the Senate the 6th day of May, 2008.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 23rd day of April, 2008.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives