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THE STATE SENATE
Monday, February 25, 2008

Committee Substitute for
Senate Bill No. 1410

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 1410 - By: PADDACK of the Senate and HILLIARD 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.

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

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

- 19 1. Unconfined, alluvial aquifer;
- 20 2. Confined, sedimentary aquifer;
- 21 3. Unconfined, karst or fractured rock aquifer; and
- 22 4. Confined, karst or fractured rock aquifer.

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

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

13 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
14 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
15 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
16 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT, dated
18 2-21-08 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.