

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 1627

By: Paddack

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to water supplies; stating
8 legislative findings; creating the Oklahoma Water
9 Supply Task Force; stating membership; providing for
10 meetings; stating procedures; providing for travel
11 reimbursement; stating purpose; requiring
12 participation in certain state water plan process;
13 requiring report by certain date; providing for
14 distribution; providing for assistance from certain
15 state agencies; requiring appointments by certain
16 date; providing for noncodification; providing an
17 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

21 A. The Oklahoma Legislature hereby finds that:

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

24 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;

1 3. Demands on and threats to high-quality water supplies pose
2 an increasingly pressing resource management challenge, a challenge
3 that will most prudently be addressed through a multi-stakeholder
4 approach that is based on current science-based assessments of
5 available technologies and regulatory systems; and

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

10 B. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Water Supply Task
11 Force.

12 1. The task force shall be composed of thirteen (13) members,
13 to be appointed as follows:

- 14 a. one member who shall be appointed by the Speaker of
15 the House of Representatives,
- 16 b. one member who shall be appointed by the President Pro
17 Tempore of the Senate,
- 18 c. nine members who shall be appointed by the Governor
19 who shall represent the following stakeholder groups:
20 municipal governments, American Indian tribal
21 governments, agriculture industry, oil and gas
22 industry, mining industry, electrical power industry,
23 rural water associations, hunting and/or fishing
24 groups and a statewide nonprofit environmental

1 organization and in addition each member appointed by
2 the Governor shall have demonstrated experience or
3 interest in one or more issues affecting water
4 management, supply, delivery, treatment, or rights,

5 d. the Secretary of the Environment, or a designee; and

6 e. the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Water Resources
7 Board, or a designee.

8 2. Vacancies on the task force shall be filled by the original
9 appointing authority within thirty (30) days of such vacancy.

10 C. The task force shall select from its membership a chair and
11 vice-chair. The task force shall be authorized to meet at such
12 times as may be required to perform the duties imposed upon it by
13 law. The first meeting shall be called by the Governor. Members
14 shall serve without compensation but shall be eligible for actual
15 and necessary travel reimbursement in accordance with the provisions
16 of the State Travel Reimbursement Act. Travel reimbursement costs
17 shall be paid by the office of the appointing authority.

18 Legislators appointed to the task force shall receive travel
19 reimbursement in accordance with the provisions of Section 456 of
20 Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

21 D. Except as otherwise provided by this act, the task force
22 shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act and the Oklahoma
23 Open Records Act. If otherwise consistent with those laws, meetings
24 may be held by teleconference or videoconference. For purposes of

1 actions requiring a vote of the membership, the task force may act
2 on a simple majority of the members present or participating in a
3 duly called meeting. All votes shall be recorded.

4 E. The task force shall:

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

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

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

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

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18 F. To the greatest extent possible, the task force shall
19 provide information for use in the Oklahoma Comprehensive State
20 Water Plan update process.

21 G. The task force shall summarize its study, examination,
22 majority recommendations based thereon, and any dissenting
23 viewpoints in a report by June 30, 2011. The report shall be

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1 distributed to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

3 H. The task force may request such assistance as it may require
4 from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, the Department of
5 Environmental Quality, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food,
6 and Forestry, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, the Department
7 of Mines, the Corporation Commission, the Oklahoma Energy Resources
8 Board, the Commission on Marginally Producing Oil and Gas Wells and
9 any other state entity it deems appropriate.

10 I. Staff assistance for the task force shall be provided by the
11 Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

12 J. Appointments to the task force shall be made no later than
13 September 1, 2008.

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

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

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