

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL 957

6 By: Bingman

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to waters and water rights; stating  
9 findings; directing the Oklahoma Water Resources  
10 Board to establish an Oklahoma Water Law Advisory  
11 Council by certain date; stating membership  
12 requirements; stating duties; requiring report;  
13 providing for noncodification; providing an effective  
14 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

18 A. The Oklahoma Legislature hereby finds that in conducting the  
19 update to the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan, several significant  
20 policy issues concerning the regulation and use of water resources  
21 of the state may be presented by the citizens, and that formulation  
22 of recommendations for new policies or alteration of existing  
23 policies reflected in the water laws of the state needs careful and  
24 considered study before finalizing and presenting such  
recommendations to the Legislature. Accordingly, the Legislature

1 finds that an advisory council would be beneficial to assist the  
2 Oklahoma Water Resources Board in making recommendations for changes  
3 in the water laws of this state.

4 B. The Legislature hereby directs the Oklahoma Water Resources  
5 Board, in the development of the update to the Oklahoma  
6 Comprehensive Water Plan, to establish before September 1, 2009, an  
7 Oklahoma Water Law Advisory Council consisting of representatives  
8 from state and federal environmental agencies and any other state or  
9 federal entity it deems appropriate, local governments, agriculture,  
10 American Indian tribal governments, industries, rural water  
11 associations, hunting and/or fishing groups and a statewide  
12 nonprofit environmental organization. Each member of the Advisory  
13 Council shall have demonstrated experience or interest in one or  
14 more policy issues affecting water management and water laws of the  
15 state.

16 C. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board  
17 or a designee shall chair the Advisory Council, and the Advisory  
18 Council shall select from its membership a vice-chair. Members  
19 shall serve without compensation.

20 D. The Advisory Council shall:

21 1. Consider comments regarding water policy made by the public  
22 during the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan public participation  
23 process; and  
24

1           2. Provide input to the Board in formulating recommendations as  
2 to changes in Oklahoma's water laws that should be presented to the  
3 Oklahoma Legislature.

4           E. To the greatest extent possible, the Advisory Council shall  
5 provide information for use in the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan  
6 update process.

7           F. The Advisory Council shall summarize its study, examination,  
8 majority recommendations based thereon, and any dissenting  
9 viewpoints in a report to be made part of the update to the Oklahoma  
10 Comprehensive Water Plan that shall be distributed to the Governor,  
11 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
12 House of Representatives.

13           G. Staff assistance for the Advisory Council shall be provided  
14 by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

15           SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2009.

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

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