

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 8, 2009

ENGROSSED
Senate Bill No. 957
As Amended

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 957 - By: BINGMAN of the Senate and THOMPSON of the House.

(Oklahoma Water Law Advisory Council – report – noncodification - effective date -
emergency)

1 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the
2 Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:
3 A. The Oklahoma Legislature hereby finds that in conducting the update to the
4 Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan, several significant policy issues concerning the
5 regulation and use of water resources of the state may be presented by the citizens, and
6 that formulation of recommendations for new policies or alteration of existing policies
7 reflected in the water laws of the state needs careful and considered study before
8 finalizing and presenting such recommendations to the Legislature. Accordingly, the
9 Legislature finds that an advisory council would be beneficial to assist the Oklahoma
10 Water Resources Board in making recommendations for changes in the water laws of this
11 state.

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

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

13 D. The Advisory Council shall:

14 1. Consider comments regarding water policy made by the public during the
15 Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan public participation process; and

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

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

20 F. The Advisory Council shall summarize its study, examination, majority
21 recommendations based thereon, and any dissenting viewpoints in a report to be made
22 part of the update to the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan that shall be distributed

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

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

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

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

9 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND UTILITY
10 REGULATION, dated 04-07-09 - DO PASS, As Amended.