

EHB 1884

THE STATE SENATE
Monday, April 6, 2009

ENGROSSED

House Bill No. 1884

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1884 - By: Richardson and Wright (John) of the House and Justice and Ivester of the Senate.

An Act relating to waters and water rights; directing the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to form a study group for certain purposes; specifying purposes; requiring the study group to submit a written report by a certain date; requiring the Board and Commission to map breach inundation areas of dams; making mapping requirement contingent upon funding; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 110.30 of Title 82, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission shall establish a study group composed of members selected by the Board and the Commission for the purpose of:

- 1. Reviewing all existing state and federal laws and regulations related to the classification of high-hazard dams;
- 2. Making recommendations on legislative, regulatory, or other actions that may be taken to reduce the number of low- or significant-hazard dams that are reclassified to high-hazard dams prior to the end of the current design life of the dam;

1 3. Formulating a public education plan that will inform the
2 general public as well as local, state, and federal officials on the
3 safety risks associated with the construction of residential or
4 business structures downstream of or adjacent to a low- or
5 significant-hazard dam; and

6 4. Exploring funding options and sources, including, but not
7 limited to private, local, state, and federal sources, which are
8 available for the upkeep and rehabilitation of dams and levees
9 located in the state and for the mapping of breach inundation areas
10 downstream of dams as provided for in subsection C of this section.

11 B. The study group created as provided for in subsection A of
12 this section shall file a written report of its review,
13 recommendations and findings with the Governor, the Speaker of the
14 House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate
15 by December 25, 2009.

16 C. Contingent upon the availability of funding, the Oklahoma
17 Water Resources Board and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission shall
18 map the breach inundation areas downstream of dams located in the
19 state using standards developed by the United States Department of
20 Agriculture Resource Conservation and Development Program.

21 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
22 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby

1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.
3 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT, dated 4-2-09
4 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.