

CS for SB 957

1 THE STATE SENATE  
2 Monday, February 23, 2009

3 Committee Substitute for  
4 Senate Bill No. 957

5 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 957 - By: Bingman of the  
6 Senate and Thompson of the House.

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

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

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

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

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

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

17           D. The Advisory Council shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 SECTION 3. 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 2-19-09 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.