

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 650

By: Paddack

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to waters and water rights; stating  
8 legislative findings; directing the Oklahoma Water  
9 Resources Board to establish a technical review  
10 group; stating membership; providing for officers;  
11 stating duties of technical review group; providing  
12 for travel reimbursement; directing group to issue  
report as part of Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan  
update; providing for distribution; providing for  
staff assistance; providing for non-codification;  
providing an effective date; and declaring an  
emergency.

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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:

19 1. Our state contains a relative wealth of waters, both surface  
20 and ground;

21 2. Measures should be implemented to address data needs so that  
22 informed science-based decisions can be made concerning the use of  
23 our abundant water resources to balance economic development with  
24 protection and management of our water resources;

1           3. The use of our state's waters should be predicated on  
2 science-based assessments, which are dependant on the availability  
3 of sufficient quality data;

4           4. Stream gauging is necessary for Interstate Water Compact  
5 activities, trends evaluation, water quantity and quality planning,  
6 technical studies, beneficial use assessment, and water permitting.  
7 Identification of baseline or minimum stream gauging data needs is  
8 essential for the orderly use of Oklahoma's water resources; and

9           5. Hydrographic surveys are essential to completion of stream  
10 system studies and hydrologic surveys are essential to completion of  
11 groundwater basin studies.

12           B. The Legislature hereby directs the Oklahoma Water Resources  
13 Board, in the development of the update to the Oklahoma  
14 Comprehensive Water Plan, to establish before September 1, 2009, a  
15 data needs and assessment technical review group consisting of  
16 representatives from State and Federal environmental agencies and  
17 any other state or federal entity it deems appropriate, local  
18 governments, Native American tribal governments, industry, rural  
19 water associations, hunting and/or fishing groups and statewide  
20 nonprofit environmental organizations, each member appointed shall  
21 have demonstrated experience or interest in one or more issues  
22 affecting water management and data needs.

23           C. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Water Resources  
24 Board, or designee, shall chair the technical review group, and the

1 technical review group shall select from its membership a vice-  
2 chair. Members shall serve without compensation but shall be  
3 eligible for actual and necessary travel reimbursement in accordance  
4 with the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

5 D. The technical review group shall:

6 1. Study and examine how this state could most effectively and  
7 economically collect stream discharge information from the  
8 cooperative program between the United States Geological Survey and  
9 State of Oklahoma for stream gauging;

10 2. Evaluate data needs, including the types and quantity of  
11 data needed and location for collection of the data, and identify  
12 data gaps for Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan to  
13 ensure the proper management and use of our water resources;

14 3. Identify groundwater basins and stream systems for which  
15 hydrologic and hydrographic studies are needed and the types of data  
16 that need to be collected for completion of such studies; and

17 4. Make recommendations addressing water quality data and water  
18 quantity data needs, both from a technical perspective and financial  
19 perspective, to improve the management of our state's surface and  
20 ground water supplies for the benefit of our citizens, economy, and  
21 environment.

22 E. To the greatest extent possible, the technical review group  
23 shall provide information for use in the Oklahoma Comprehensive  
24 State Water Plan update process.

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

7 G. Staff assistance for the technical review group shall be  
8 provided by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

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

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

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