

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature (2012)

3 SENATE BILL 1603

By: Fields

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to Regional Water Planning Groups;
8 directing the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to
9 create certain Regional Water Planning Groups;
10 stating purpose; limiting authority; organizing
11 groups by certain counties; directing Board to make
12 recommendations by certain date; authorizing
13 rulemaking; providing for noncodification; and
14 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. As studied and recommended in the Oklahoma Comprehensive
19 Water Plan (OCWP), and as modified and directed by this section, the
20 Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall organize nine (9) Regional
21 Water Planning Groups (RWPG) to serve as advisory groups of local
22 citizens, appointed by the Governor to serve terms as determined
23 appropriate by the Board. The purpose of the RWPG shall be to
24 advise the Board as requested and advocate to the Legislature any
recommendations the RWPG deem appropriate relating to all facets of
water use and planning under the jurisdiction of the Oklahoma Water

1 Resources Board, in implementing the recommendations of the OCWP,
2 and as otherwise directed by the Board or by law. Provided,
3 however, the RWPG shall not have authority to conduct permitting
4 activities or administrative functions under the jurisdiction of the
5 Board.

6 B. The Board shall modify the recommendations of the OCWP by
7 organizing a total of nine (9) RWPG to be made up of the entire
8 boundaries of the following counties:

9 1. The Northwest Panhandle Regional Water Planning Group shall
10 include Cimarron, Texas, Beaver, Harper, Ellis, Woodward, Woods and
11 Major counties;

12 2. The North Central Regional Water Planning Group shall
13 include Alfalfa, Grant, Garfield, Kay, Noble, Payne, Osage, Pawnee,
14 Washington, Nowata, Tulsa and Creek counties;

15 3. The Grand Regional Water Planning Group shall include
16 Ottawa, Craig, Rogers, Mayes, Delaware and Wagner counties;

17 4. The Lower Arkansas Regional Water Planning Group shall
18 include Adair, Cherokee, Muskogee, Sequoyah, Haskell, Latimer, and
19 LeFlore counties;

20 5. The Southeast Regional Planning Group shall include
21 McCurtain, Pushmataha, Choctaw, Bryan, Atoka, Coal, Pontotoc,
22 Murray, Johnston, and Marshall counties;

23 6. The Eufaula Regional Planning Group shall include Okmulgee,
24 Okfuskee, Hughes, Pittsburg and McIntosh counties;

1 7. The West Central Regional Water Planning Group shall include
2 Roger Mills, Dewey, Custer, Beckham, Washita, Caddo, Blaine,
3 Kingfisher, Canadian and Grady counties;

4 8. The Southwest Regional Planning Group shall include Harmon,
5 Greer, Jackson, Kiowa, Tillman, Comanche, Cotton, Stephens,
6 Jefferson, Garvin, Carter and Love counties; and

7 9. The Central Regional Planning Group shall include Logan,
8 Oklahoma, Cleveland, McClain, Lincoln, Pottawatomie and Seminole
9 counties.

10 C. Each RWPG shall adopt for use in each individual region the
11 following:

12 1. A definition of instream or environmental flows necessary to
13 provide a healthy ecosystem and support water-related industrial,
14 agricultural, recreation, tourism and other nonconsumptive needs
15 appropriate to the region;

16 2. A definition of excess and surplus water to be applied to
17 the region; and

18 3. An estimate of the amount of water to be appropriated within
19 the region necessary to prevent any anticipated gaps in surface
20 water and alluvial groundwater or bedrock depletions pursuant to the
21 OCWP through the year 2060.

22 D. The Board shall determine the appropriate number of members
23 for the RWPG and the qualifications for membership, their functions,
24 duties and an appropriate level of funding necessary to perform

1 those operations as the Board deems appropriate no later December
2 15, 2012. The Board shall make legislative recommendations it deems
3 necessary to implement the RWPG and no recommendations shall be
4 implemented until enacted by the Legislature.

5 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
6 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
7 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
8 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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