

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE BILL 1604

By: Fields

4  
5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Water Resources  
8 Board; vacating board positions upon enactment of  
9 certain law; providing for future appointments;  
10 stating requirements; providing for staggered terms;  
11 providing members serve at pleasure of the Governor;  
12 providing for representatives of certain water user  
13 interests; describing authority of Board; providing  
14 for meetings and election of officers; providing for  
15 powers and duties to be transferred; providing for  
16 codification; and declaring an emergency.

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

18 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1085.1A of Title 82, unless  
20 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 A. Within one year following the enactment of a separate law  
22 creating nine (9) Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPG) which shall  
23 be organized by county boundaries, and upon a date certain as  
24 determined by law, all positions of the Oklahoma Water Resources  
Board shall be deemed vacant and new members shall be appointed as  
follows:

1        1. The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate,  
2 shall appoint one member from each RWPG who shall be a qualified  
3 elector of this state and a resident of a county located within the  
4 RWPG and two additional at-large members for a total of eleven (11)  
5 members. Members shall be appointed to serve staggered terms as  
6 follows: three members shall be appointed for terms of five (5)  
7 year; two members shall be appointed for terms of four (4) years;  
8 two members shall be appointed for terms of three (3) years; two  
9 members shall be appointed for terms of two (2) years; and two  
10 members shall be appointed for terms of one (1) year. Upon the  
11 expiration of the initial terms their successors shall be appointed  
12 for terms of five (5) years. Members may be eligible for  
13 reappointment for successive terms not to exceed ten (10) years  
14 total. Vacancies shall be filled within sixty (60) days to serve  
15 the remainder of the original term. Members shall serve at the  
16 pleasure of the Governor. The first meeting of the new Board  
17 appointed pursuant to the requirements of this section shall be  
18 called by the Governor.

19        B. In making the initial appointments and successor  
20 appointments to this Board the Governor shall attempt to ensure a  
21 variety of water user interests are represented at all times  
22 including: economic development and industrial users (including oil  
23 and gas production and electric power generation), recreational,  
24 tourism, irrigational, agricultural, environmental, municipal and

1 rural water supply, and soil conservation. Not more than three  
2 members may be selected to represent any one of the above listed  
3 water user interests.

4 C. The Board shall constitute a body corporate and politic and  
5 serve as an instrumentality, agency and department of this state and  
6 exercise by the Board of the powers conferred by law shall be deemed  
7 and shall be held to be an essential governmental function of this  
8 state.

9 D. The Board shall meet at least once each month and shall  
10 organize annually by electing a chair and vice-chair from the  
11 membership. Members shall take and subscribe to the constitutional  
12 and statutory oath of office and file the same with the Secretary of  
13 State.

14 E. The Board as appointed pursuant to the requirements of this  
15 section shall have the powers and authority as provided in Section  
16 1085.2 of Title 82 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

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

21  
22 53-2-1914 MJM 1/19/2012 11:48:56 AM

23  
24