

**BILL SUMMARY**  
2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>SB 1327</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>FA2</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Lockhart</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>4/24/2012</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>Potential cost of election - \$757,390</b>

**Research Analysis**

Floor amendment 2 to SB 1327 deletes the council membership requirement in the committee substitute and replaces it with the requirement that each 15-member council consist of members elected by a vote of the people in each water region. The State Election Board is required to provide the county election boards with maps of boundaries of each water region and assign addresses within each county to the regions. A candidate must have resided in the water region for at least six months prior to the first day of the filing period. Elections will be on the second Tuesday in February.

SB 1327 strikes the title and creates nine Regional Water Planning Councils to develop regional water plans and advise the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) and other agencies. The measure outlines specific requirements of the regional water planning process for the councils to complete within 10 years, including prioritization and implementation of projects and the completion of a comprehensive regional water plan. The measure requires public meetings and public input in the first and third phases of the process. OWRB is authorized to review and approve the plans and reconcile conflicts that may exist. Funding will be divided equally among the councils from any appropriations that may be made by the Legislature to OWRB for such purposes. The Legislature may make additional funding available for competitive grants to the councils. A member of the OWRB board will serve as an ex officio nonvoting member of each council. The councils also will invite representatives of tribal governments in the regions to serve as ex officio nonvoting members. The chairs of the nine councils will comprise a Regional Water Planning Coordinating Committee which will meet at least three times a year and report to and receive input from OWRB.

Prepared By: Robin McAlister

**Fiscal Analysis**

FA2 for SB 1327 provides that the 15 members of each of the 9 Regional Water Planning Councils be elected in a statewide election on the second Tuesday in February. The amendment provides no funding for the expense of the election. According to officials at the State Election Board, the cost of the election is borne by the requesting entity after an authorized resolution calling for the election is presented to the Board. The Board also states that the cost of a statewide election includes the following:

Precinct officials - \$271 x an estimated 2,000 polling places = \$542,000  
Polling Place Rent - \$30 x 2,000 = \$60,000 (paid by the county fund)  
A statewide ballot - \$150,000  
County Election Board fee - \$70 x 77 counties = \$5,390

Estimated total cost of a statewide election = \$757,390

Prepared By: Mark Nichols

**Other Considerations**

Some of these estimated costs might be reduced by sharing elections with school boards (Title 26, Section 13A-111), which also happen on the second Tuesday of February.