STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 54th Legislature (2013)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1923 By: DeWitt

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

[environment and natural resources - Emergency Drought Relief Fund - creation of the Emergency Drought Commission - emergency]

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2250 of Title 27A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

There is hereby created in the State Treasury a fund to be known as the "Emergency Drought Relief Fund". This fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations and shall consist of all monies appropriated to the fund by the Legislature for the purposes of providing funding for emergency drought relief activities once a drought emergency has been declared.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2251 of Title 27A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

In the event of a formal declaration of emergency drought conditions by the Governor, the Emergency Drought Commission shall be formed consisting of the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. The Emergency Drought Commission shall determine the expenditures to be made from the Emergency Drought Relief Fund created in Section 1 of this act, subject to approval by the Governor. The Emergency Drought Commission shall also serve as a drought advisory panel to the Governor and the various state agencies. The activities of the Emergency Drought Commission shall continue until it is determined by the Governor that a drought emergency no longer exists in the state. The Emergency Drought Relief Fund may receive additional funding from the Legislature, as needed, through the appropriations process.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2252 of Title 27A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The fund shall be available for drought response activities within the state that may include but shall not be limited to:

1. Pond cleanup and construction;

2. Water conservation methods in production agriculture;

3. Providing of water for livestock;

4. Rural fire suppression activities as directed by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry;

5. Red cedar eradication;

6. Soil conservation;

7. Emergency infrastructure conservation and measures; and

8. Any other drought response activities identified by the Emergency Drought Commission.

SECTION 4. There is hereby appropriated to the Emergency Drought Relief Fund from any monies not otherwise appropriated from the General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, the sum of Ten Million Dollars ($10,000,000.00) or so much thereof as may be necessary to provide emergency drought relief under the provisions of this act.

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

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