

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1923

By: DeWitt, Armes, Newell,
Sanders, Biggs, Cockroft,
Pittman and Roberts (Sean)
of the House

and

Justice, Fields and Ivester
of the Senate

An Act relating to environment and natural resources; creating the Emergency Drought Relief Fund; stating purpose of the fund; transferring certain funds; providing for the creation of the Emergency Drought Commission when certain conditions are present; providing for expenditures from fund; providing duties of the Commission; requiring fund to be available for certain drought response activities; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

SUBJECT: Emergency Drought Relief Fund and Commission

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 received by the fund from state appropriations, gifts, grants, private donations or federal funding for the purpose of providing funding for emergency drought relief activities once a drought emergency has been declared.

SECTION 2. TRANSFER The Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) shall transfer the sum of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board as appropriated in Section 97 of Enrolled House Bill No. 2301 of the 1st Session of the 54th Oklahoma Legislature to the Emergency Drought Relief Fund created in Section 1 of this act.

SECTION 3. 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 and shall determine the appropriate agency to expend the funds. 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.

SECTION 4. 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 Emergency Drought Relief 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 5. Section 2 of this act shall become effective July 15, 2013.

SECTION 6. 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.

Passed the House of Representatives the 21st day of May, 2013.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 23rd day of May, 2013.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____