

1 In order to ensure reliability for all state water users, assist
2 small communities in implementing conservation strategies and create
3 feasible solutions to identifiable drought vulnerabilities, there is
4 hereby created the Drought Proof Communities Act of 2014, which
5 establishes a procedure whereby public funds, made available by the
6 Oklahoma Water Resources Board from any source they deem appropriate
7 or otherwise appropriated by law, may be used for the improvement of
8 drinking water and wastewater systems in small communities in this
9 state. Provided, however, nothing in this act shall be construed as
10 amending any provisions of law pertaining to the rights or permits
11 to use water.

12 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
13 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1090.3 of Title 82, unless there
14 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

15 Funds used pursuant to the provisions of this act may be
16 expended for the benefit of any municipality or rural water and/or
17 sewer district with a population below seven thousand persons,
18 according to the latest federal decennial census or American
19 Community Survey data. Funds may be expended for such municipality
20 or rural water and/or sewer district until the next federal
21 decennial census. Upon approval of an application, funds shall be
22 disbursed to the municipality or rural water district requesting the
23 funds.

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1 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1090.4 of Title 82, unless there
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 Any municipality or rural water and/or sewer district with a
5 population of fewer than one thousand seven hundred fifty persons,
6 according to the most current federal decennial census or American
7 Community Survey data available, shall have a higher priority for
8 funds allocated by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board for the
9 purposes of this act than jurisdictions of greater population.

10 Among such entities, those having relatively weaker fiscal capacity
11 shall have a priority for project funding in preference to other
12 municipality or rural water and/or sewer districts.

13 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1090.5 of Title 82, unless there
15 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 The funds referred to in this act may be expended for water
17 projects to identify drought vulnerabilities and implement
18 conservation strategies, including, but not limited to, system water
19 loss audits, cost effective solutions to improve water conveyance
20 systems, water reuse plans and system sustainability plans.

21 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1090.6 of Title 82, unless there
23 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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1 In order to ensure fair and equitable distribution of the funds
2 referred to in this act, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall
3 promulgate rules for administering, determining priority of,
4 approving and funding applications in a manner consistent with
5 existing grant programs under the jurisdiction of the Board.

6 SECTION 7. This act shall become effective July 1, 2014.

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

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12 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
13 04/03/2014 - DO PASS, As Amended.

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