

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 54th Legislature (2013)

3 HOUSE BILL 1517

By: McBride

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to waters and water rights; creating
8 the Regional Water Cooperation Act; requiring the
9 Oklahoma Water Resources Board to create Water
10 Cooperation Boards and districts; directing the
11 Oklahoma Water Resources Board to hold public
12 stakeholder meetings for certain purposes; providing
13 for meeting; establishing meeting notice publication
14 requirements; requiring the Board to comply with
15 certain law; directing the Board to take certain
16 actions for cooperative infrastructure projects;
17 specifying the authority and jurisdiction of the
18 Board; providing for codification; providing an
19 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

21 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1086.11 of Title 82, unless
23 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

24 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Regional Water
Cooperation Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1086.12 of Title 82, unless
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. There shall be created within the Oklahoma Water Resources
2 Board five Water Cooperation Boards. The boundaries of these boards
3 shall be established by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, using
4 county boundaries, with emphasis on achieving a commonality of
5 interests regarding water infrastructure projects. The purpose of
6 these boards shall be to advise the Oklahoma Water Resources Board
7 by proposing infrastructure projects and identifying local needs to
8 ensure an adequate water supply to serve each area. As part of this
9 purpose, public stakeholder meetings shall be held at least annually
10 to obtain comment and input from interested citizens and cooperation
11 among public and private entities.

12 B. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall provide notice of
13 the public stakeholder meetings on its website in addition to
14 providing notice by publication not less than three times in a
15 newspaper of general circulation in the district. If no newspaper
16 serves the entire district, notice shall be provided by publication
17 in as many newspapers as necessary to provide actual notice
18 throughout the district. Notice shall also be provided by
19 publication not less than two times in a newspaper of statewide
20 circulation. The notice shall announce the time, date and location
21 of the public stakeholder meeting.

22 C. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall conform to the
23 requirements of the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act in holding the public
24 stakeholder meetings.

1 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1086.13 of Title 82, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall assist, advise and
5 encourage the development of infrastructure projects and shall
6 establish mechanisms to use its loan and grant funding within each
7 of the five designated districts to encourage and reward
8 cooperation.

9 B. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall consider the needs
10 and requests which evolve from the public stakeholder meetings held
11 as provided for in Section 2 of this act. However, the Board shall
12 maintain overall authority and jurisdiction to ensure a statewide
13 perspective is maintained and that projects conducted in one
14 district are not to the detriment of the needs within other
15 districts.

16 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2013.

17 SECTION 5. 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.

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22 54-1-6624 KB 01/16/13

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