

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE BILL 2069

By: Jackson

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to waters and water rights; creating  
8 the Water Cooperation Act; stating legislative  
9 findings; directing the Oklahoma Water Resources  
10 Board to hold public stakeholder meetings for certain  
11 purposes; requiring the Board to establish a district  
12 or geographic area input liaison position; providing  
13 for meeting times and chair position; establishing  
14 meeting notice publication requirements; requiring  
15 the Board to comply with certain law; directing the  
16 Board to take certain actions for cooperative  
17 infrastructure projects; specifying the authority and  
18 jurisdiction of the Board; providing for  
19 codification; providing an effective date; and  
20 declaring an emergency.

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

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

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

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

4 A. The Legislature finds that the Oklahoma Water Resources  
5 Board consists of a total of nine (9) members. Each of the five  
6 congressional districts in the state is represented on the Board,  
7 which district is a defined geographical area.

8 B. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall hold public  
9 stakeholder meetings for the purpose of proposing infrastructure  
10 projects and identifying local needs to ensure an adequate water  
11 supply to serve defined geographical areas of the state, which  
12 correlate with the congressional district, through grassroots  
13 involvement by interested citizens and cooperation among public and  
14 private entities.

15 C. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall establish a  
16 district or geographic area input liaison position within the agency  
17 to facilitate public meetings, receive input and report geographic  
18 area issues to the Board.

19 D. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall hold the public  
20 stakeholder meetings required in subsection B of this section at  
21 least one time each year in each congressional district. The  
22 meetings shall be chaired by the member of the Board who represents  
23 that congressional district or geographic area in order to conduct  
24 outreach and encourage cooperative efforts for water projects.

1 E. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall provide notice of  
2 the public stakeholder meetings on its website in addition to  
3 providing notice by publication not less than three times in a  
4 newspaper of general circulation in the geographic area. If no  
5 newspaper serves the entire district or area, notice shall be  
6 provided by publishing in as many newspapers as necessary to provide  
7 actual notice throughout the district or area. Notice shall also be  
8 provided by publication not less than two times in a newspaper of  
9 statewide circulation. The notice shall announce the time, date and  
10 location of the public stakeholder meeting.

11 F. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall comply with the  
12 Administrative Procedures Act process regarding public hearings in  
13 holding the public stakeholder meetings required in this section.

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

17 A. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall assist, advise and  
18 encourage the development of cooperative infrastructure projects and  
19 shall establish mechanisms to distribute its loan and grant funding  
20 within each of the five congressional districts in the state to  
21 encourage and reward cooperation.

22 B. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall consider the needs  
23 and requests which evolve from the public stakeholder meetings held  
24 as provided for in Section 2 of this act. However, the Board shall

1 maintain overall authority and jurisdiction on approving projects  
2 and distributing funding to ensure a statewide perspective is  
3 maintained and that projects conducted in one district or area are  
4 not to the detriment of the needs within other districts or areas.

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

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

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