

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

3 SENATE BILL 1430

By: Schulz

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to waters and water rights; creating
8 the Drought Proof Communities Act of 2014; providing
9 short title; declaring public purpose; stating
10 construction; stating eligibility for funds; stating
11 priority for certain municipalities or rural water
12 and/or sewer districts; stating purposes for
13 expenditure of funds; authorizing the Oklahoma Water
14 Resources Board to administer program and promulgate
15 rules; providing for codification; providing an
16 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

18 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1090.1 of Title 82, unless there
20 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Drought Proof
22 Communities Act of 2014".

23 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
24 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1090.2 of Title 82, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

In order to ensure reliability for all state water users, assist
small communities in implementing conservation strategies and create

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

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

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

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

1 Any municipality or rural water and/or sewer district with a
2 population of fewer than one thousand seven hundred fifty persons,
3 according to the most current federal decennial census or American
4 Community Survey data available, shall have a higher priority for
5 funds allocated by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board for the
6 purposes of this act than jurisdictions of greater population.
7 Among such entities, those having relatively weaker fiscal capacity
8 shall have a priority for project funding in preference to other
9 municipality or rural water and/or sewer districts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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