

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature (2012)

HOUSE BILL 3055

By: Steele

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to waters and water rights; creating the Water for 2060 Act; stating finding; declaring state policy; limiting application of the act; amending 82 O.S. 2011, Section 1088.1, which relates to the Oklahoma Water Conservation Grant Program Act; modifying title; adding entities eligible to be considered communities; expanding pilot projects; creating the Water for 2060 Advisory Council; establishing membership of the Advisory Council; providing for officers, meetings, quorum and vacancies; providing for staff support; listing duties and responsibilities of the Advisory Council; requiring the Advisory Council to submit a final report by a certain date; providing for recodification; and providing for codification.

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 1088.11 of Title 82, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Water for 2060 Act".

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1088.12 of Title 82, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 The Legislature hereby declares that, in order to protect
5 Oklahoma citizens from increased water supply shortages and
6 groundwater depletions by the year 2060 in most of the eighty-two
7 watershed planning basins in the state as described in the 2012
8 Update of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan, the public policy
9 of this state is to establish and work toward a goal of consuming no
10 more fresh water in the year 2060 than is consumed statewide in the
11 year 2012, while continuing to grow the population and economy of
12 the state and to achieve this goal through utilizing existing water
13 supplies more efficiently and expanding the use of alternatives such
14 as wastewater, brackish water, and other nonpotable supplies.
15 Provided, however, that nothing in the Water for 2060 Act shall be
16 construed as amending the provisions of law pertaining to rights or
17 permits to use water.

18 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 82 O.S. 2011, Section 1088.1, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Section 1088.1 A. ~~This section shall be known and may be cited~~
21 ~~as~~ There is hereby created the "Oklahoma Water Conservation Grant
22 Program ~~Act~~".

23 B. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall solicit proposals
24 for and make grants for the establishment of pilot programs which

1 will implement water conservation projects or plans in communities
2 in the state.

3 C. The goals and objectives of the grant program are to:

4 1. Increase the awareness of the public through education
5 programs or public information campaigns regarding the value of our
6 water resources and how water can be used more efficiently;

7 2. Provide assistance to communities or entities initiating
8 water conservation plans, programs, and activities and to research
9 and document the potential for improving water use efficiency
10 through demonstration projects and other activities; and

11 3. Assist in the development of policies which will encourage
12 the implementation of water conservation measures.

13 D. For purposes of this section, communities may include entire
14 cities or towns, combined cities or towns, parts of cities or towns,
15 or schools, groups or entities located within a community, or one or
16 more rural water districts or portions of water districts.

17 E. Contingent upon the availability of funding, the Board may
18 award grants each year in an amount not to exceed Twenty-five
19 Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) for each grant. The total amount of
20 grants awarded each year shall not exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars
21 (\$50,000.00).

22 F. The pilot projects shall be innovative programs that will
23 serve as models for other communities in the state. Pilot projects
24 may include, but are not limited to, community conservation

1 demonstration projects, water use accounting programs, retrofit
2 projects, school education projects, Xeriscape demonstration
3 gardens, projects which promote efficiency, recycling and reuse of
4 water, and information campaigns on capturing and using harvested
5 rainwater and graywater.

6 G. The Board shall determine pilot project criteria and
7 establish a process for the consideration of proposals. The
8 proposals for pilot projects shall be considered on a statewide
9 competitive basis. The Board shall promulgate rules for the
10 operation of the projects.

11 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1088.14 of Title 82, unless
13 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 A. There is hereby created an advisory council to be known as
15 the "Water for 2060 Advisory Council".

16 B. The Advisory Council shall consist of fifteen (15) members
17 as follows:

18 1. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Water Resources
19 Board;

20 2. Four members appointed by the Governor who shall be well
21 versed in municipal, rural residential, and agriculture water uses,
22 as well as water-efficiency practices and technologies;

23 3. Five members appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House
24 of Representatives who shall be well versed in recreation,

1 industrial, and irrigation water uses, as well as water and
2 wastewater reuse practices and technologies; and

3 4. Five members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
4 Oklahoma State Senate who shall be well versed in soil conservation,
5 small business, and environmental water interests, as well as
6 marginal quality and brackish water use practices and technologies.

7 C. Appointed members shall serve at the pleasure of their
8 respective appointing authority.

9 D. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board
10 shall serve as chair of the Advisory Council, with other officers
11 selected by the Advisory Council as it deems necessary. Meetings of
12 the Advisory Council shall be held at the call of the chair. A
13 majority of the members of the Advisory Council shall constitute a
14 quorum to transact business, but no vacancy shall impair the right
15 of the remaining members to exercise all of the powers of the
16 Advisory Council. A vacancy on the Advisory Council shall be filled
17 by the original appointing authority. Staff support for the
18 Advisory Council shall be provided by the staff of the Oklahoma
19 Water Resources Board. Other state agencies shall provide support
20 and information as requested by the Advisory Council.

21 E. The Advisory Council shall have the following duties and
22 responsibilities:

23 1. Recommend incentives to encourage improved irrigation and
24 farming techniques, more efficient infrastructure, use of water

1 recycling/reuse systems, promotion of "smart" irrigation techniques,
2 control of invasive species, artificial recharge of aquifers, and
3 increased use of marginal quality and brackish waters;

4 2. Make recommendations regarding the expansion of education
5 programs that modify and improve consumer water-use habits;

6 3. Enhance existing, or develop new, financial assistance
7 programs that encourage Oklahoma water systems to implement leak
8 detection and repair programs that result in reduced loss and waste
9 of water, as well as encourage consolidation and regionalization of
10 smaller systems in order to utilize limited resources most
11 efficiently; and

12 4. Any other responsibilities consistent with the Water for
13 2060 Act.

14 F. The Advisory Council shall submit a final report of its
15 findings and recommendations to the Governor, Speaker of the House
16 of Representatives, and President Pro Tempore of the Senate no later
17 than the date which is three (3) years following the date this act
18 becomes effective.

19 SECTION 5. RECODIFICATION 82 O.S. 2011, Section 1088.1,
20 as amended by Section 3 of this act, shall be recodified as Section
21 1088.13 of Title 82 of the Oklahoma Statutes, unless there is
22 created a duplication in numbering.

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