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February 26, 2015

SENATE BILL NO. 760

By: Schulz and Fields of the
Senate

and

Ortega of the House

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Water Use Working Group; creating working group; stating purpose; providing for appointments; providing for meetings; requiring appointments by certain date; establishing procedures for meetings; providing for staffing; providing for termination; providing for noncodification; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

A. For the purpose of studying and developing a comprehensive plan for the transfer of surface water, within the boundaries of this state, there is hereby created the Oklahoma Water Use Working Group to consist of nine (9) members to be appointed as follows:

1. Three members shall be appointed by the Governor;

2. Three members shall be appointed by the President Pro
Tempore of the Senate; and

1 3. Three members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House
2 of Representatives.

3 B. The appointing authorities shall strive to appoint fair and
4 open-minded members who shall endeavor to consider the current and
5 future water requirements of all the citizens of this state, the
6 various industries operating in this state which depend on water
7 resources and members shall further be without vested personal or
8 financial interest in protecting any particular group or resource.

9 C. Meetings, activities and reports of the working group shall
10 be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meetings and Open Records Acts. All
11 actions of the working group shall be approved by a majority vote of
12 the membership.

13 D. Members shall be appointed no later than July 1, 2015, the
14 Governor shall call the first meeting of the working group. The
15 working group shall elect from among its membership a chair who
16 shall be responsible for calling meetings. Vacancies shall be
17 filled by the original appointing authority and members shall serve
18 at the pleasure of their appointing authority. Members appointed to
19 the working group shall serve without compensation but may be
20 eligible for actual and necessary travel reimbursement by their
21 appointing authority pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

22 E. Staffing requirements of the working group may be provided
23 as needed by the Governor's office, the Oklahoma State Senate, the
24 House of Representatives, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board or any

1 other governmental agency or entity as directed by the working
2 group.

3 F. Any reports or recommendations approved by the working group
4 shall be presented to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the
5 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and be made
6 publicly available.

7 G. Activities of the working group shall terminate no later
8 than December 1, 2016, unless otherwise extended by the Legislature.

9 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
10 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
11 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
12 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

13 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
14 February 26, 2015 - DO PASS
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