

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 1537

By: Dunnington

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

An Act relating to waters and water rights; making legislative findings; imposing requirement on municipalities with respect to inclined block rate structures for water usage; providing for excessive water usage surcharge; authorizing surcharge revenues to be used for municipal water systems; providing for codification; providing for noncodification; and providing an effective date.

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:

The Legislature finds that water is necessary for the residents of the State of Oklahoma to enjoy a high quality of life. The demand for drinking water and water for other household and commercial uses is constantly increasing. Water conservation measures are critical for the State of Oklahoma to maintain its access to water and to sustain the lives of its citizens. The Legislature finds that municipalities are an important means for the

1 delivery of water and that the price for water usage by
2 municipalities can have a positive impact on water conservation
3 efforts. To encourage municipalities to implement inclined block
4 rate structures for the delivery of water to persons and business
5 enterprises located within municipal boundaries, the Legislature
6 finds that a system which creates incentives for water conservation
7 is desirable state public policy and is in furtherance of an
8 essential state government function. Water and water quality, while
9 affected by actions of many persons and entities at the local level,
10 are both matters of statewide public concern.

11 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2001 of Title 82, unless there
13 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 A. Effective November 1, 2017, each municipality within the
15 state shall implement an inclined block rate structure for use of
16 municipal water by persons, business entities and other users. The
17 municipality may retain all revenues derived from the sale of water
18 to each user.

19 B. Municipalities that implement an inclined block rate
20 structure may impose surcharges for a municipal water user that uses
21 more than twenty-five thousand (25,000) gallons of water per month.
22 Water use surcharge revenues may be used by the municipality or an
23 entity having the municipality as its beneficiary for municipal
24 water systems and related infrastructure assets.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

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