

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 1241

By: Brecheen of the Senate

3 and

4 Russ of the House

5
6 [Water - water rights - Oklahoma Water Resources
7 Board - conservation studies - codification -
noncodification - ~~effective date~~ -
8 emergency]

9
10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

11 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1021.1 of Title 82, unless there
13 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Water
15 Sustainability Act".

16 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1021.2 of Title 82, unless there
18 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 The Legislature hereby declares that in order to efficiently
20 utilize and orderly develop the water resources available within
21 each geographic region of this state for the benefit of our
22 citizens, the public policy of this state is to promote and support
23 the planning and development of long-term water projects to achieve
24 this policy through the use of programs and incentives that first

1 seek to maximize the efficient use of water resources available
2 within each region. The Legislature finds that prioritizing efforts
3 to more efficiently develop our state's water resources to meet the
4 needs of all areas within the state is consistent with the
5 provisions of Section 105.12 of Title 82 of the Oklahoma Statutes.
6 Provided, however, that nothing in this act shall be construed as
7 amending the provisions of law pertaining to rights or permits to
8 use water.

9 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1021.3 of Title 82, unless there
11 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12 The Oklahoma Water Resources Board may complete studies that
13 will contribute to the implementation of the policy recommendations
14 of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan and identify practical and
15 efficient water resource management options. The Board may
16 contract, based upon the availability of funds, with a private
17 company, nonprofit or academic institution to assist with the
18 studies. The subject of the studies shall include but are not
19 limited to:

20 1. Addressing Oklahoma's projected water and wastewater
21 infrastructure need between the effective date of this act and 2060
22 by conducting a statewide infrastructure needs assessment, including
23 an assessment of potential water system efficiencies and incentives
24

1 and reviewing both traditional and nontraditional funding
2 mechanisms;

3 2. Assisting nonregulatory local stakeholders and regional
4 water planning groups in identifying efficiencies, incentives and
5 priorities for long-term solutions to water supply needs;

6 3. Coordinating potential federal, state, tribal, local and
7 corporation partnership opportunities for financing and incentives
8 to develop plans, technical studies and related projects; and

9 4. Identifying innovative solutions to forecasted water
10 shortages with the goal of maintaining water use at current levels
11 through 2060 by considering the initiatives recommended by the Water
12 for 2060 Advisory Council, including the implementation of a
13 statewide water conservation campaign, and continuing the
14 interdisciplinary Produced Water Working Group to identify
15 alternatives and opportunities for the beneficial use of produced
16 water.

17 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1021.4 of Title 82, unless there
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall encourage and assist
21 local and regional groups to develop water plans and projects to
22 efficiently maximize the use of water resources within this state,
23 including, but not limited to:

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1 1. Voluntary consolidation and regionalization of existing
2 infrastructure and water supplies in order to utilize limited
3 resources most efficiently;

4 2. Maximizing existing reservoirs through activities such as
5 providing financing for raising dams, reallocating existing storage
6 pools and the dredging of reservoirs;

7 3. Increasing water storage and minimizing transportation and
8 evaporative losses of water used for agricultural purposes;

9 4. Managing or augmenting aquifer storage through activities
10 such as the land application or injection of excess fresh, marginal
11 or recycled water; and

12 5. Implementing conservation measures, such as system water
13 loss audits, conservation education programs, technical assistance
14 with long-term planning, water reuse projects and system
15 sustainability projects.

16 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
17 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

18 The Oklahoma Water Resources Board is authorized to promulgate
19 rules as necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

20 ~~SECTION 6. This act shall become effective July 1, 2018.~~

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

1 Passed the Senate the 14th day of March, 2018.

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3 _____
4 Presiding Officer of the Senate

5 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
6 2018.

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8 _____
9 Presiding Officer of the House
10 of Representatives