

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 56th Legislature (2018)

3 SENATE BILL 1241

By: Brecheen

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to waters and water rights; creating  
8 the Oklahoma Water Sustainability Act; stating  
9 Legislative declaration and findings; directing Water  
10 Resources Board to develop certain water plans and  
11 projects; requiring water plans and projects to  
include certain elements; authorizing Board to  
promulgate rules; providing for codification;  
providing for noncodification; providing an effective  
date; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

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

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

23 The Legislature hereby declares that in order to efficiently  
24 utilize and orderly develop the water resources available within

1 each geographic region of this state for the benefit of our  
2 citizens, the public policy of this state is to promote and support  
3 the planning and development of long-term water projects to achieve  
4 this policy through the use of programs and incentives that first  
5 seek to maximize the efficient use of water resources available  
6 within each region. The Legislature finds that prioritizing efforts  
7 to more efficiently develop our state's water resources to meet the  
8 needs of all areas within the state is consistent with the  
9 provisions of Section 105.12 of Title 82 of the Oklahoma Statutes.  
10 Provided, however, that nothing in this act shall be construed as  
11 amending the provisions of law pertaining to rights or permits to  
12 use water.

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

16 A. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall dedicate staff and  
17 resources, as available, to assist in the development of water plans  
18 and projects in furtherance of this act including, but not limited  
19 to:

20 1. Promoting and assisting in the coordination of regional and  
21 local water planning efforts;

22 2. Providing assistance in the formation of voluntary water  
23 planning efforts;

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1        3. Compiling and sharing information and providing available  
2 technical resources to assist in such water planning efforts; and

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

6        B. Contingent upon availability of funding and in addition to  
7 the general assistance described above, the Board may provide  
8 analysis or guidance regarding options available for development of  
9 water plans.

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

13       Water plans and projects should be developed to efficiently  
14 maximize the use of water resources within this state, and should  
15 include, but not be limited to:

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

19       2. Maximizing existing reservoirs through activities such as  
20 raising dams, reallocating existing storage pools and the dredging  
21 of reservoirs;

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

1        4. Managing or augmenting aquifer recharge rates through  
2 activities such as the land application or injection of excess fresh  
3 or recycled water; and

4        5. Implementing conservation measures, such as system water  
5 loss audits, water reuse projects and system sustainability  
6 projects.

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

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

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

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

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