

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
HOUSE BILL 3636

By: Dempsey and Humphrey of the
House

and

Bullard of the Senate

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to water and water rights; creating the Oklahoma Water Economic Impact Study Act; creating the Oklahoma Water Economic Impact Study Fund; stating purpose of fund; making fund continuing and nonfiscal; stating sources of revenue; establishing procedures of expenditures of monies accruing to the credit of the fund; authorizing the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to conduct instream flow studies on certain bodies of water; requiring studies to include certain information and recommendations; requiring submission of completed study to certain entities; providing for promulgation of rules by Oklahoma Water Resources Board; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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 1702 of Title 82, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Water Economic Impact Study Act".

1 B. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving
2 fund for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to be designated the
3 "Oklahoma Water Economic Impact Study Fund" for the purpose of
4 conducting instream flow studies. The revolving fund shall be a
5 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall
6 consist of all monies received by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board
7 from the appropriations, apportionments, donations, federal grants,
8 and fee revenues designated for the purposes of implementing the
9 provisions of this act. All monies accruing to the credit of the
10 fund may be budgeted and expended by the Secretary of Energy and
11 Environment, in agreement with the Executive Director of the
12 Oklahoma Water Resources Board. Expenditures from the fund shall be
13 made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims
14 filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of
15 Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

16 C. 1. The Secretary of Energy and Environment and the
17 Executive Director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall
18 confer for the consideration of conducting a water economic impact
19 study. Water economic impact studies shall be conducted for the
20 purpose of educating stakeholders on the value of all uses of the
21 particular body of water at the subject of a study pursuant to this
22 act. A study conducted pursuant to this act shall have the goals of
23 informing communities and stakeholders about the protection,
24 conservation, recreational use, and economic development of water

1 resources and to encourage the protection of the rights of the
2 citizens of this state to use water for riparian and domestic use as
3 authorized pursuant to Section 105.2 of Title 82 of the Oklahoma
4 Statutes.

5 2. Water economic impact studies shall only be conducted on the
6 Little River in McCurtain County, the Glover River in McCurtain
7 County, and the Mountain Fork River in McCurtain County. Any water
8 economic impact study conducted pursuant to this act shall commence
9 upon the availability of funds.

10 D. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board may work in cooperation
11 with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce to conduct any water
12 economic impact study conducted under this act. A final copy of the
13 completed instream flow study shall be submitted to the Governor,
14 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
15 Representatives, and the Secretary of Energy and Environment.

16 E. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board may promulgate rules to
17 implement the provisions of this act.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2022.

19 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
20 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
21 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
22 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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24 58-2-3749

RJ

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