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1       SECTION 2.       NEW LAW       A new section of law to be codified

2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 898 of Title 82, unless there is  
3 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4       A. As used in this section, "heritage river" means any river or  
5 stream that has maintained a free-flowing and undammed status for  
6 all of Oklahoma's statehood.

7       B. A heritage river, having been free-flowing and undammed  
8 since Oklahoma's statehood, possesses natural elements such as  
9 water, fish, wildlife, and outdoor recreational values of present  
10 and future benefit to the people of the state. For this purpose,  
11 the Glover River in McCurtain County shall be designated a heritage  
12 river.

13       C. On or after the effective date of this act, any river  
14 designated as a heritage river pursuant to this act shall not be  
15 impounded by any dam or structure for industrial purposes and no  
16 entity shall sell or transfer water from any heritage river.

17       D. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall have authority over  
18 the provisions of this act and shall promulgate rules. The Oklahoma  
19 Water Resources Board shall:

20       1. Prepare, adopt, and publish management plans and other  
21 documents to guide public and private activities and programs;

22       2. Consider and comment on public and private practices and  
23 proposed actions that may affect a heritage river;

1        3. Recommend standards for local government agencies whose  
2 political boundaries include all or part of a heritage river;

3        4. Own and control public access points for a heritage river,  
4 and purchase easements and fee title to land along a heritage river  
5 for public purposes which are to be held by the Board as an agency  
6 of this state; and

7        5. Identify public and private nuisances that adversely affect  
8 a heritage river and take lawful action to abate nuisances.

9        E. 1. Nothing in this act shall be construed to unduly  
10 restrict or adversely affect the use of property within any heritage  
11 river basin for farming, ranching, forestry, silviculture, and other  
12 agricultural uses if such uses are not inconsistent with the  
13 purposes of this act. Present farming, ranching, forestry,  
14 silviculture, and other agricultural uses and practices shall be  
15 exempt from the provisions of this act.

16        2. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to affect  
17 existing rights between a landowner and a utility or pipeline  
18 company.

19        3. The property rights of private landowners adjacent to a  
20 heritage river shall be the same as in any other area of the state.  
21 The unauthorized use of private property shall be deemed trespassing  
22 and subject to the penalties provided for such an offense.

23        4. Nothing in this act shall be construed to restrict public  
24 recreational uses of a heritage river.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
March 3, 2022 - DO PASS AS AMENDED