

**BILL SUMMARY**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 58<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>HB 3825</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>Introduced</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	<b>9215</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Rep. Newton</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>2/3/2022</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>\$241,000 revenue increase</b>

**Research Analysis**

HB 3825 amends the provisions that authorize the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to charge fees for its services by removing the specific titles and amount limits related to annual groundwater permit fees.

Prepared By: Tricia Hines

**Fiscal Analysis**

From the Oklahoma Water Resources Board:

**Annual ground water right administration fee**

The annual administration fee for existing groundwater permits is used for maintenance of the water right database, public information requests, complaint investigations and enforcement, administrative hearings on contested water right applications, maximum annual yield hearings, and conversion of temporary groundwater rights to regular permits once a maximum annual yield has been established by the Board. As water rights become more competitive and water becomes more scarce because of new industries or increased population moving into an area or extended drought like Oklahoma saw from 2010-15, administration costs to the Board increase due to active management of the permits such as complaints and field investigations, change of ownerships, administrative hearings, and other factors. The current fee of \$25 is due with the submittal of an annual water use report. This fee was set in 2010 and generated approximately \$241,000 revenue annually for the period 2011-21 to cover a portion of costs. Increasing this fee to \$50 to better match today's program costs would generate an additional \$241,000 and would bring the program to about 84% self-funded.

Prepared By: Mariah Searock

**Other Considerations**

None.