

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 60th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB4459
Version:	POLREC
Request Number:	16354
Author:	Rep. Newton
Date:	3/2/2026
Impact:	Maximum \$250,000 Recurring See Analysis Below for One-Time Costs

Research Analysis

The policy committee recommendation for HB 4459 requires the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to provide a five-year groundwater permit. A five-year permit holder must annually report their prior year's usage using an approved meter and pay an annual fee.

Existing permit holders that want a five-year allocation don't need to get a new permit. Instead, their allocation will be based on the maximum annual yield at the time of their original application. For new applicants, the five-year allocation will be based on the basin's current maximum annual yield.

A five-year permit holder may exceed their annual allowable amount in any one year, but must adhere to their five-year limit overall. They may not exceed their annual allocation by 200 percent in any one year.

Permit holders that don't have a five-year allocation, as well as permit holders in a groundwater irrigation district or a cost-share conservation district, must develop a program for providing measuring systems on a loan or cost share basis.

Prepared By: Emily Byrne

Fiscal Analysis

The policy committee recommendation to HB 4459 requires the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) to provide five-year flex allocations of groundwater for certain new permit holders and certain existing or temporary permit holders. Permit holders who choose not to participate in the five-year flex allocation or are not part of a groundwater irrigation district or conservation district would be subject to water monitoring.

For recurring costs related to this program, the OWRB anticipates a Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollar (\$250,000.00) impact that would be shared between OWRB, irrigation districts, and conservation districts related to program administration, compliance, and enforcement. Therefore, the maximum fiscal impact to OWRB's budgetary resources is \$250,000, depending on how this recurring cost is split between the three named entities.

For one-time costs related to this program, the OWRB anticipates the total cost to purchase mobile water-measuring devices to be One Million Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,350,000.00). This cost is intended to be borne by the irrigation and conservation districts

statewide; however, any appropriated dollars towards the purchase of the devices would assist the OWRB in fulfilling the requirements of this measure.

Prepared By: Jay St Clair, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.

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