

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 60th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB650
Version:	Engrossed
Request Number:	
Author:	Rep. Harris
Date:	4/8/2025
Impact:	\$0

Research Analysis

SB 650 requires municipally-owned or other publicly-owned utilities providing sewage services to adopt a plan for:

- mapping the sewer system for maintenance and operation purposes;
- inspecting, cleaning and root control of the system;
- responding to calls about overflows, and deodorizing/cleaning land where overflows have occurred;
- Adopting a "Fats, Oils, and Grease Ordinance";
- Installing backflow prevention devices;
- Notifying private property owners of the option to install backflow prevention devices on their private service lines;

Publicly-owned utilities must also:

- Review their funding availability models every five years and also must adopt a five year capital improvement plan;
- Publish annual notifications about the "Fats, Oils, and Grease Ordinance" and the option to install backflow prevention devices in a newspaper;

The measure prohibits right of recovery for personal injury if the utility is working to maintain its system in accordance with this act.

The measure also establishes and modifies award amounts under the Governmental Tort Claims Act. The total liability of the state and its political subdivisions:

- Is increased from \$25,000 to \$35,000 for any claimant who has more than one claim for loss of property;
- Is set at \$5,000 for physical injury from a municipal overflow or back for each person occupying the building, not to exceed \$20,000;
- Is set at \$5,000 for nuisance, annoyance, or inconvenience damages from a municipal overflow or backup for each person occupying the building, not to exceed an aggregate damage amount of \$20,000;

Lastly, the measure exempts a political subdivision from liability for loss or claims resulting from sanitary sewer overflows, flooding and backups in the following instances:

- Unordinary rainfall events, considering duration and intensity of the rainfall events, that result in flows that exceed the design capacity of the sewer system;

- On lines within sewer system where no report of a blockage, backup, or overflow has been made within the preceding three years;
- On private property, provided that the utility operator is in compliance with Section 1 of this act.

Prepared By: Emily Byrne

Fiscal Analysis

Engrossed SB 650 establishes guidelines for a maintenance and operation plan that public utilities must develop and abide by. The measure requires the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and any other state agencies that provide funding to public utilities to consider the sustainability efforts of systems under consideration for approval. Upon review, this measure has no direct fiscal or revenue considerations for the state.

Prepared By: Jay St Clair, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.