

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

HOUSE BILL 4350

By: Moore

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to waters and water rights; amending 82 O.S. 2021, Section 1020.19, which relates to metering of wells; removing certain meter use; authorizing the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to implement certain allocation to encourage conservation after certain date; specifying requirements for participation; prohibiting excessive use; exempting certain wells from provisions; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 82 O.S. 2021, Section 1020.19, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1020.19. ~~Upon request of a majority of the landowners residing within a~~ A. To encourage groundwater conservation, beginning January 1, 2027, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall provide a five-year flex allocation of groundwater usage based off the previously determined allocated annual use of the basin or subbasin, the Board is authorized to require that water wells be metered and that such meters as the Board shall approve be utilized

1 ~~by the applicant and placed under seal, subject to reading by the~~
2 ~~agents of the Board at any time. The Board may also require that~~
3 ~~the applicant report the reading of such meters at reasonable~~
4 ~~intervals. A five-year flex allocation shall not require a new~~
5 ~~permit for existing permit holders. A five-year flex allocation~~
6 ~~shall be available for:~~

7 1. Existing permit holders for groundwater use permits in
8 basins or subbasins, based upon the maximum annual yield
9 determination at the time of the original application;

10 2. New applicants for groundwater use permits in basins or
11 subbasins based upon the current maximum annual yield determination;
12 and

13 3. New and existing applicants and temporary permit holders for
14 groundwater use permits in basins or subbasins where the maximum
15 annual yield has yet to be determined.

16 B. An applicant for a five-year flex allocation shall be
17 required to:

18 1. Submit an annual usage report of the prior year's usage from
19 a Board-approved water measurement system; and

20 2. Pay the annual groundwater permit fee.

21 C. A five-year flex allocation shall allow the permit holder to
22 exceed the determined annual allocation in any year of the five-year
23 allocation; provided, that the applicant shall adhere to the
24 cumulative annually determined allocation of the basin or subbasin

1 over the five-year period. The permit holder shall not exceed the
2 permitted annual allocation by over two hundred percent (200%) in
3 any of the five (5) years.

4 D. Nothing in this section shall apply to domestic wells.

5 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

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