

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 760

By: Schulz and Fields of the
Senate

3 and

4 Ortega of the House

5
6 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Water Use Working
7 Group; creating working group; stating purpose;
8 providing for appointments; providing for meetings;
9 requiring appointments and designations by certain
10 date; providing for staffing; stating termination
11 date; providing for noncodification; and declaring an
12 emergency.

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

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
15 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

16 A. For the purpose of supporting the planning and development
17 of long-term water projects within the boundaries of this state,
18 there is hereby created the Oklahoma Water Use Working Group. The
19 Oklahoma Water Use Working Group will adopt an "all-of-the-above"
20 approach as it considers water projects that can help alleviate
21 current and long-term shortages including, but not limited to:

- 22 1. Interbasin transfers of water;
- 23 2. Heightened water conservation, efficiency, reuse, and
24 recycling measures;

1 3. Voluntary consolidation of existing infrastructure and water
2 supplies;

3 4. Maximizing existing reservoirs and construction of new
4 reservoirs;

5 5. Increasing water storage and minimizing transportation and
6 evaporative losses of water used for agricultural purposes; and

7 6. Managing or augmenting aquifer storage and recovery.

8 B. The Oklahoma Water Use Working Group shall consist of eleven
9 (11) members as follows:

10 1. Secretary of Energy and Environment;

11 2. Secretary of Agriculture;

12 3. Secretary of Commerce and Tourism;

13 4. Executive Director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board;

14 5. Representative of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five
15 Civilized Tribes;

16 6. Representative of the Oklahoma Municipal League;

17 7. Representative of the Oklahoma Rural Water Association;

18 8. Two at-large members appointed by the President Pro Tempore
19 of the Senate, one to represent the southwest quadrant and one to
20 represent southeast quadrant of the state; and

21 9. Two at-large members appointed by the Speaker of the House
22 of Representatives, one to represent the northwest quadrant and one
23 to represent northeast quadrant of the state.

24

1 C. The working group shall consider the current and future
2 water requirements of all the citizens of this state, and the
3 various industries operating in this state which depend on water
4 resources.

5 D. Meetings, activities, and reports of the working group shall
6 be subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act and the Oklahoma Open
7 Records Act. All actions of the working group shall be approved by
8 a majority vote of the membership.

9 E. Members shall be designated or appointed no later than July
10 1, 2015. The Governor shall call the first meeting of the working
11 group. The working group shall elect from among its membership a
12 chair who shall be responsible for calling meetings. Vacancies
13 shall be filled by the original appointing authority, and members
14 shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority. Members
15 of the working group shall serve without compensation but may be
16 eligible for actual and necessary travel reimbursement by their
17 appointing authority pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

18 F. Staffing requirements of the working group may be provided
19 as needed by the Governor's office, the Oklahoma State Senate, the
20 House of Representatives, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board or any
21 other governmental agency or entity as directed by the working
22 group.

23 G. Any reports or recommendations approved by the working group
24 shall be presented to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the

1 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and be made
2 publicly available.

3 H. Activities of the working group shall terminate no later
4 than December 1, 2016, unless otherwise extended by the Legislature.

5 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
6 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
7 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
8 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

9 Passed the Senate the 11th day of March, 2015.

10
11 _____
12 Presiding Officer of the Senate

13 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
14 2015.

15
16 _____
17 Presiding Officer of the House
18 of Representatives