

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 91

By: Woods of the Senate

3 and

4 Hardin of the House

5
6 [water quality study - advisory groups - reporting
7 requirement - fund - codification - effective date]
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10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

11 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-7-111 of Title 27A, unless
13 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Spring
15 Creek Watershed Study Act".

16 B. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission, in partnership with
17 other local, state, and federal agencies and non-governmental
18 organizations shall undertake a comprehensive water quality study of
19 the Spring Creek Watershed located in Cherokee, Delaware, and Mayes
20 counties near Kansas, Oklahoma. The study shall examine methods to
21 protect and improve the health of the aquatic habitat in the
22 watershed. The findings of the study shall be used to implement
23 voluntary, incentive-based conservation practices by the Commission
24 in partnership with other local, state, and federal agencies.

1 Implementation of study findings shall be subject to availability of
2 resources.

3 C. There is hereby created the Spring Creek Watershed Water
4 Quality Advisory Group, organized by the Commission and the local
5 conservation districts in the watershed. The advisory group shall
6 consist of the following members:

7 1. Three members representing the local conservation districts
8 in the watershed, appointed by the Commission;

9 2. Three local landowners, appointed by the local conservation
10 districts in the watershed, who predominantly reside in the
11 watershed full time and who represent major types of land management
12 in the watershed including, but not limited to, poultry production,
13 livestock grazing, and forestry land management;

14 3. One landowner, appointed by the local conservation districts
15 in the watershed, who predominantly resides outside the watershed;

16 4. One member representing the municipal government of Kansas,
17 Oklahoma, appointed by the Commission;

18 5. One member representing the municipal government of Oaks,
19 Oklahoma, appointed by the Commission; and

20 6. Any other members deemed necessary for inclusion by the
21 Advisory Group, to be appointed by the Commission.

22 D. In addition to the advisory group described in subsection C
23 of this section, a technical advisory group shall be established to
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support the efforts of the study. Membership of the technical advisory group shall consist of:

1. The Secretary of Agriculture or his or her designee;
 2. The Executive Director of the Department of Environmental Quality or his or her designee;
 3. One member representing the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA NRCS);
 4. One member representing the Farm Service Agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA FSA);
 5. One member representing the Grand River Dam Authority;
 6. One member representing the Department of Wildlife Conservation;
 7. One member representing the National Watershed Coalition;
- and
8. One member representing the Cherokee Nation.

E. Members of the advisory groups described in subsections C and D of this section shall serve without compensation. The Commission shall provide the physical space for meetings of the advisory groups and administrative support as needed. Upon appointment of all members to the advisory groups, the Commission shall schedule their first meetings. At the first meeting, the advisory groups shall elect a chair and a vice chair. Any vacancies on the advisory groups shall be filled in the same manner as provided for in this section.

1 F. The advisory group, with support from the technical advisory
2 group, shall:

3 1. Assist the Commission in developing the report required by
4 subsection G of this section;

5 2. Recommend policies or programs to incentivize participation
6 in voluntary efforts to protect the water quality and aquatic
7 habitat of the region. Such recommendations shall take into account
8 optimization of existing state and federal resources and
9 initiatives, including the state water quality program, the USDA FSA
10 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), the USDA NRCS
11 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the USDA Small
12 Watershed Program, the USDA NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program
13 (CSP), the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, the USDA NRCS
14 Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), and any other
15 appropriate state or federal voluntary program identified by the
16 advisory group; and

17 3. Identify and recommend strategies for implementation of the
18 reported recommendations and findings.

19 G. On or before June 1, 2026, the Commission shall publish an
20 electronic report of the Spring Creek Watershed Study findings on a
21 publicly available website. The Commission may, from time to time,
22 update such findings as conditions change and pertinent information
23 becomes available.

1 H. The Commission may contract and cooperate with the Natural
2 Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of
3 Agriculture and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to conduct
4 activities provided for in this section.

5 I. The Commission may apply for and accept grants, gifts, or
6 other sources of public and private funds to carry out the purposes
7 of the Spring Creek Watershed Study Act.

8 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
9 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-7-112 of Title 27A, unless
10 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

11 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
12 for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to be designated the
13 "Spring Creek Watershed Study Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a
14 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall
15 consist of all monies received by the Commission from appropriations
16 by the Legislature to the fund, and any money received as gifts,
17 grants, or other contributions from public or private sources
18 provided for the purpose of implementing the Spring Creek Watershed
19 Study Act. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby
20 appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Commission for
21 the purpose provided for in the Spring Creek Watershed Study Act.
22 Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the
23 State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the
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1 Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for
2 approval and payment.

3 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

4 Passed the Senate the 26th day of March, 2025.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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8 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
9 2025.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

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