

1                           **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2                           March 5, 2025

3                           **AS AMENDED**

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6                           SENATE BILL NO. 91

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10                          By: Woods

11                          [ **water quality study - advisory groups - reporting**  
12                          **requirement - fund - codification - effective date** ]

13

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

15                          SECTION 1.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified

16                          in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-7-111 of Title 27A, unless

17                          there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

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

1 support the efforts of the study. Membership of the technical  
2 advisory group shall consist of:

3       1. The Secretary of Agriculture or his or her designee;

4       2. The Executive Director of the Department of Environmental  
5 Quality or his or her designee;

6       3. One member representing the Natural Resources Conservation  
7 Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA NRCS);

8       4. One member representing the Farm Service Agency of the  
9 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA FSA);

10      5. One member representing the Grand River Dam Authority;

11      6. One member representing the Department of Wildlife  
12 Conservation;

13      7. One member representing the National Watershed Coalition;

14 and

15      8. One member representing the Cherokee Nation.

16      E. Members of the advisory groups described in subsections C  
17 and D of this section shall serve without compensation. The  
18 Commission shall provide the physical space for meetings of the  
19 advisory groups and administrative support as needed. Upon  
20 appointment of all members to the advisory groups, the Commission  
21 shall schedule their first meetings. At the first meeting, the  
22 advisory groups shall elect a chair and a vice chair. Any vacancies  
23 on the advisory groups shall be filled in the same manner as  
24 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

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 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
5 March 5, 2025 - DO PASS

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