

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 702
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Request No.:	2016
Author:	Sen. McCortney
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Floor Substitute (FS)

The FS for SB 702 establishes a legislative moratorium on the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) permitting of any discharge from a non-exempt mine to streams fed or supported by water emanating from sensitive sole source groundwater basins or subbasins, excepting cases wherein the DEQ issues a permit to correct compliance issues; on the Oklahoma Department of Mines as it relates to issuing or amending permits to non-exempt mines; and on the Oklahoma Water Resource Board (OWRB) from issuing, allocating, or recognizing any offset of the consumptive use of water and non-exempt mines.

The moratorium shall remain in effect until the DEQ, Department of Mines, and Oklahoma Water Resources Board promulgate final rules to provide for effective interagency consultation and coordination of activities related to the regulation of mines. The moratoria shall also remain in effect on OWRB permits until the OWRB, in coordination with the DEQ, Department of Mines, and East Central University, completes the Enhanced Monitoring and Evaluation of Hydrologic Trends for the Eastern Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer, SouthCentral Oklahoma and promulgates rules to implement the provisions of the studies.

Nonexempt mines are defined in the measure as mines that overlie a sensitive sole source groundwater basin or subbasin and have not engaged in the permitted extraction of resources.

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