1 ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 1341 By: Howard and Bullard of the 2 Senate 3 and Newton of the House 4 5 6 7 [water and water rights - groundwater - reporting requirements - fines and penalties - exclusions usage complaint - notice - metering and measurement -8 rule promulgation - duties - codification - effective 9 date 1 10 11 12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA: 13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 82 O.S. 2021, Section 1020.12, is amended to read as follows: 14 Section 1020.12. A. Holders of permits shall be required to 15 report to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board at least annually their 16 17 use of water pursuant to their permits. Holders of permits shall remit the report not later than January 31 of the year following the 18 permitted use and the report shall contain usage data based on the 19 20 provisions of Section 1020.19 of this title and Section 5 of this act. Willful failure to report annual usage may result in 21 penalties, fines, or cancellation of the permit by the Board upon 22 proper notice and hearing as provided in the Administrative 23 Nonuse, conservation, or usage practices that 24 Procedures Act.

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1 result in less usage than the permitted annual yield shall not 2 result in diminishment of the permit holder's future permitted 3 annual yield.

B. Holders of permits which use groundwater in connection with an animal feeding operation which houses swine and primarily uses a liquid waste management system where animals are primarily housed in a roof-covered structure shall be required to indicate such use in their annual water use report. Such holders shall also indicate whether or not the animal feeding operation is licensed pursuant to the Oklahoma Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Act.

11 C. The Board shall notify the <u>State Oklahoma</u> Department of 12 Agriculture, <u>Food</u>, <u>and Forestry</u> of the names and addresses of all 13 permit holders who report usage of groundwater in connection with an 14 animal feeding operation which houses swine and which primarily uses 15 a liquid waste management system where animals are primarily housed 16 in a roof-covered structure and who are not licensed pursuant to the 17 Oklahoma Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Act.

18 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 82 O.S. 2021, Section 1020.15, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Section 1020.15. A. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall 21 not permit any groundwater user to commit waste by:

Drilling a well, taking, or using groundwater without a
 permit, except for domestic use <u>as defined in this title;</u>

24 2. Taking more groundwater than is authorized by the permit;

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3. Taking or using groundwater in any manner so that the water
 2 is lost for beneficial use;

3 4. Transporting groundwater from a well to the place of use in4 such a manner that there is an excessive loss in transit;

5 5. Using groundwater in such an inefficient manner that6 excessive losses occur;

6. Allowing any groundwater to reach a pervious stratum and be
8 lost into cavernous or otherwise pervious materials encountered in a
9 well;

7. Permitting or causing the pollution of a fresh water strata 10 or basin through any act which will permit fresh groundwater 11 polluted by minerals or other waste to filter or otherwise intrude 12 into such a basin or subbasin. The Board shall be precluded from 13 determining whether waste by pollution will occur pursuant to the 14 provisions of this paragraph if the activity for which the applicant 15 or water user intends to or has used the water as specified under 16 Section 1020.9 of this title is required to comply with rules and 17 requirements of or is within the jurisdictional areas of 18 environmental responsibility of the Department of Environmental 19 Quality or the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and 20 Forestry; 21

B. Drilling wells and producing groundwater therefrom except in
 accordance with the well spacing previously determined by the Board;

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1 9. Using groundwater for air conditioning or cooling purposes without providing facilities to aerate and reuse such water; or 2 10. Failure to properly plug abandoned water wells in 3 4 accordance with rules of the Board and file reports thereof. 5 Complaints by any individual in violation of the provisions Β. of subsection A of this section shall be made to the Board and to 6 the local groundwater irrigation district, if such district is 7 established pursuant to the laws of this state. Investigation of 8 9 such complaints by the Board shall be made in collaboration with the local groundwater irrigation district. Except as otherwise provided 10 by paragraph 7 of subsection A of this section, any employee of the 11 12 Board having evidence that an act of waste is being committed in his or her presence, or after investigation of a complaint filed by 13 another individual, shall take steps to assure that the waste ceases 14 upon review of reporting, audits of usage, an investigation of a 15 complaint filed by any person, or by the Board's own independent 16 17 determination, the Board shall take action to cease such waste and impose fines and penalties on such user as provided in Section 18 1020.22 of this title. Such steps shall include, but shall not be 19 limited to pursuing voluntary compliance, obtaining the issuance of 20 a cease and desist order by the Executive Director of the Oklahoma 21 Water Resources Board, imposing progressive fines and penalties 22 related to the severity and frequency of waste, instituting action 23 in a court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin the waste, pursuing a 24

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suspension suspending or revoking of any permit or other administrative remedies by the Board, and filing a complaint in the district court of the county wherein such violation has occurred, and it shall be the duty of the district attorney of said such county to prosecute such complaint.

In cases of waste by pollution pursuant to paragraph 7 of 6 С. subsection A of this section, any complaint or investigation, or any 7 enforcement matter other than an individual proceeding involving the 8 9 suspension of an Oklahoma Water Resources Board permit shall be 10 referred to and subject to the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Quality or other appropriate state environmental 11 12 agency or state agency with limited environmental responsibility. SECTION 3. 13 AMENDATORY 82 O.S. 2021, Section 1020.16, is amended to read as follows: 14

Section 1020.16. A. All persons engaged in the commercial 15 drilling or commercial plugging of groundwater wells, monitoring 16 17 wells, observation wells, wells utilized for heat exchange purposes, including but not limited to heat pump wells and geothermal wells, 18 and in the commercial drilling or plugging of geotechnical borings 19 and all persons engaged in the commercial installation of water well 20 pumps in this state shall make application for and become licensed 21 with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. Persons required to be 22 licensed pursuant to this section shall pay an annual fee as 23

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required by the Board. The fees shall be deposited and expended as
 provided in subsection D of this section.

B. The Board may prepare examinations and establish other
requirements for applicants to obtain, maintain, and renew licenses
and operator certifications. The examinations shall test the
knowledge and skills of:

7 1. Water well drillers in the construction, alteration, and
8 repair of wells and boreholes, including proper sealing and
9 abandonment of wells and boreholes, and the rules promulgated by the
10 Board regarding water well and borehole drilling and plugging; and

2. Pump installers in the planning, installation, operation, and repair of pumping equipment and water wells including sealing and abandonment, pumping efficiency, and the rules promulgated by the Board regarding pump installation.

The Board may inspect any water well, monitoring well, 15 С. boring, water well pump, or abandoned well and borehole. Upon 16 consent of notice to the owner of the land on which the well or 17 borehole is located or as allowed by district court order, 18 authorized representatives of the Board may enter upon and shall be 19 given access to the premises for the purpose of inspection. If the 20 Board finds noncompliance with applicable laws or rules or that a 21 health hazard exists, the Board may disapprove use of the well and 22 shall provide notice to the owner of the land on which the well is 23 located and to the well driller, if known, of the disapproval. 24 If a

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well has been disapproved, it shall not be used until brought into
 compliance and any health hazard is eliminated. Any person
 aggrieved by the disapproval of a well may request a hearing before
 the Board.

D. 1. There is hereby created within the Oklahoma Water
Resources Board the Well Drillers and Pump Installers Remedial
Action Indemnity Fund. The Indemnity Fund shall be administered by
the Board.

9 2. The Indemnity Fund shall be excluded from budget and expenditure limitations. Except as otherwise provided by subsection 10 E of this section, the monies deposited in the Indemnity Fund shall 11 12 at no time become part of the general budget of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board or any other state agency. Except as otherwise 13 provided by subsection E of this section, no monies from the 14 Indemnity Fund shall be transferred for any purpose to any other 15 state agency or any account of the Board or be used for the purpose 16 of contracting with any other state agency or reimbursing any other 17 state agency for any expenses. Monies in the Indemnity Fund shall 18 only be expended for remedial actions necessary, without notice and 19 hearing, to protect groundwater from pollution or potential 20 pollution from wells, or boreholes under the jurisdiction of the 21 Board that do not meet minimum standards for construction or that 22 have been abandoned or as may be recommended by the Well Drillers 23 and Pump Installers Advisory Council. 24

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3. The fees collected pursuant to subsection A of this section
 shall be first credited to the Well Drillers and Pump Installers
 Remedial Action Indemnity Fund. The Indemnity Fund shall be
 maintained at Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00).

4. Expenditures from the Indemnity Fund required pursuant to
the provisions of this section shall be made pursuant to the
provisions of The the Oklahoma Central Purchasing Act upon terms and
conditions established by the Office of Management and Enterprise
Services and shall not exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) for
each well, borehole or pump for which action is taken.

5. Except in situations where the Board has assessed and 11 12 declared a health or safety emergency and a claim by the owner of the well or borehole for costs of remedial action is not paid by 13 private insurance or other relief, the Board shall seek 14 reimbursement as recommended by the Well Drillers and Pump 15 Installers Advisory Council for any remedial action taken or 16 required by the Board. Any monies received as reimbursement shall 17 be deposited in the Well Drillers and Pump Installers Remedial 18 Action Indemnity Fund except as otherwise provided in subsection C 19 of this section. 20

E. When the Well Drillers and Pump Installers Remedial Action Indemnity Fund reaches Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), the fees, monies received as reimbursement, and administrative penalties recovered under paragraph 1 of subsection G of this section shall be

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deposited in a separate account in the Water Resources Board OWRB 1 2 Revolving Fund designated as the Well Drillers and Pump Installers Regulation Account, which shall be a continuing account not subject 3 to fiscal year limitations. Monies in said such account shall be 4 5 used by the Board for inspections, licensing, enforcement and education, reimbursing per diem and travel costs for members of the 6 Well Drillers and Pump Installers Advisory Council pursuant to the 7 State Travel Reimbursement Act, and as otherwise determined to be 8 9 necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

Before any person or firm licensed pursuant to this section 10 F. shall commence the commercial drilling or plugging of any well or 11 borehole or commence commercial installation of any pump, the person 12 13 or firm shall file with the Board all data or information as the Board may by rule require to assure the protection of the 14 groundwater in the well or borehole. After completion, the driller 15 shall file a completion report showing all such data together with a 16 log of the well and pumping test data if applicable. 17

The Board may, after notice and hearing, impose on any 18 G. 1. person administrative penalties of up to Five Thousand Dollars 19 (\$5,000.00) and may revoke, suspend or deny renewal of any license 20 or operator certification for each violation of the rules of the 21 Board regarding license or certification requirements, the 22 requirement to obtain a license or certification, or minimum 23 construction or installation standards. The administrative 24

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penalties shall be deposited in the Well Drillers and Pump
 Installers Remedial Action Indemnity Fund except as otherwise
 provided in subsection E of this section.

2. In addition to imposing administrative penalties, the Board 4 5 may issue orders prohibiting actions by holders of valid licenses and operator certifications and by persons who are required to 6 become licensed under the provisions of this section that constitute 7 violations of rules promulgated pursuant to this section and 8 9 requiring actions to remedy violations or other noncompliance with minimum standards rules for the construction of wells and borings, 10 the plugging of wells and borings, and the commercial installation 11 12 of water well pumps.

If a respondent fails, refuses or neglects to comply with an 13 Η. order of the Board to pay an administrative penalty or to take 14 certain action, the Board may present the matter to the Attorney 15 General who is empowered to take action to collect the 16 17 administrative penalty or to compel compliance with the order of the Board. One-half (1/2) of all penalties collected by the Attorney 18 General shall be deposited in the Well Drillers and Pump Installers 19 Regulation Account established pursuant to subsection E of this 20 section and one-half (1/2) shall be deposited in the Attorney 21 General's Revolving Fund created in Section 20 of Title 74 of the 22 Oklahoma Statutes. 23

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I. The Board is authorized to create a Well Drillers and Pump
 Installers Advisory Council. The Board shall establish rules
 stating the qualifications for membership and organization of the
 Council. Meetings of the Council shall be held at the call of the
 Executive Director of the Board. The Council shall have the
 following duties:

7 1. To recommend rules to the Board, provided such written
8 recommendations have been concurred upon by a majority of the
9 membership of the Council; and

10 2. To review and recommend approval or denial of use of monies 11 in the Well Drillers and Pump Installers Remedial Action Indemnity 12 Fund for:

a. remedial actions to protect groundwater from pollution
 or potential pollution from wells, or boreholes under
 the jurisdiction of the Board which do not meet
 minimum standards for construction or that have been
 abandoned, and

b. inspections, licensing, the pursuit of enforcement
action with the proper authorities and education by
the Board.

21 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 82 O.S. 2021, Section 1020.19, is 22 amended to read as follows:

23 Section 1020.19. Upon request of a majority of the landowners 24 residing within a basin or subbasin, the Board is authorized to

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1	require that water wells be metered and that such meters as the
2	Board shall approve be utilized by the applicant and placed under
3	seal, subject to reading by the agents of the Board at any time.
4	The Board may also require that the applicant report the reading of
5	such meters at reasonable intervals A. All holders of a permit from
6	the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to take and use groundwater in
7	this state shall equip all water wells with a water well flow meter
8	or an alternative measuring system, including, but not limited to,
9	pump and center pivot remote monitoring telemetry devices or running
10	time records of a pump time's capacity. Wells that are connected by
11	a common pipeline may be measured by one flow meter or alternative
12	measuring system at the point of distribution. The water well flow
13	meter or alternative measuring system shall have contemporary,
14	verifiable records, as defined by the Board. The meter or
15	alternative measuring system shall remain on the well and in proper
16	operating condition at all times when groundwater is being produced.
17	Data from the meter or alternative measuring system shall be
18	transmitted to the Board annually or as otherwise required by the
19	Board. The meter and measurement requirements of this section shall
20	be implemented pursuant to the provisions of Section 5 of this act.
21	B. Except as otherwise provided in this act, the Oklahoma Water
22	Resources Board shall promulgate any rules necessary to implement
23	the provisions of Sections 1 through 8 of this act no later than
24	<u>August 1, 2025</u> .

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SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1020.19A of Title 82, unless
 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Α. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall promulgate rules to 4 5 establish a phase-in schedule and plan for the meter and measurement requirements established in Section 1020.19 of Title 82 of the 6 Oklahoma Statutes to ensure that the requirements are implemented 7 statewide not later than eight (8) years following the effective 8 9 date of this act. The phase-in schedule and plan shall be submitted 10 as proposed permanent rulemaking to the Legislature not later than February 1, 2025. 11

B. The first phase of meter and measurement implementation shall begin with the Elk City aquifer, North Fork of the Red River aquifer, and the southwest Oklahoma aquifer. The provisions of Section 1020.19 of Title 82 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall be implemented in the aquifers listed in this subsection not later than November 1, 2026.

C. After an aquifer has undergone three (3) years of metering under Section 1020.19 of Title 82 of the Oklahoma Statutes and the provisions of this section, the Board shall use the collected data to review water usage of each aquifer and determine if revisions of well placement and spacing or a moratorium for new permits in the aquifer is needed.

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1SECTION 6.NEW LAWA new section of law to be codified2in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1020.19B of Title 82, unless3there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall promulgate rules and 5 implement policies for the purposes of focusing agents, employees, 6 and systems to:

7 1. Accept, audit, and review reporting on a timely basis from
8 permitted groundwater users;

9 2. Modernize its data collection system with respect to 10 permitted groundwater users and implement a program to receive and 11 index usage reports by an online or electronic system that can 12 accept real-time data collection;

Investigate any claims of waste pursuant to Section 1020.15
 of Title 82 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

4. Impose fines and penalties for overuse of water allotments
by any permitted well user or waste pursuant to Section 1020.15 of
Title 82 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

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 SECTION 7.
 AMENDATORY
 82 O.S. 2021, Section 1085.2, as

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 last amended by Section 3, Chapter 164, O.S.L. 2023 (82 O.S. Supp.

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 2023, Section 1085.2), is amended to read as follows:

21 Section 1085.2. In addition to any and all other authority 22 conferred upon it by law, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall 23 also have authority:

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Generally to do all such things as in its judgment may be
 necessary, proper or expedient in the accomplishment of its duties;

2. To make such contracts and execute such instruments as in 3 the judgment of the Board are necessary or convenient to the 4 5 exercise of any of the powers conferred upon it by law. Provided, however, no contract shall be made conveying the title or use of any 6 waters of the State of Oklahoma this state to any person, firm, 7 corporation or other state or subdivision of government, for sale or 8 9 use in any other state, unless such contract be is specifically 10 authorized by an act of the Oklahoma Legislature and thereafter as approved by it; 11

12 3. To negotiate contracts and other agreements with the federal government to arrange for the development of water resources and for 13 the storage and distribution of water for beneficial purposes; 14 provided, however, that the Board shall act in such capacity only as 15 an intermediary in assisting others, and under no circumstances 16 shall the Board have any power or authority to build, construct or 17 finance any waterways, dams or other such projects for itself, 18 except as may be otherwise specifically provided by the laws of this 19 state; 20

4. To develop statewide and local plans to assure the best and most effective use and control of water to meet both the current and long-range needs of the people of Oklahoma <u>this state</u>; to cooperate in such planning with any public or private agency, entity or person

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interested in water, and is directed to prepare such plans for consideration and approval by the Legislature; and to aid, at all times, counties, incorporated cities and towns and special purpose districts in the state in promoting and developing flood control and water conservation in the state;

5. To employ and fix the compensation of such officers, agents,
attorneys, technical personnel and employees of the Board as it
shall deem necessary to the proper performance of its duties;

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6. To adopt and use an official seal;

10 7. To promulgate such rules and make orders as it may deem 11 necessary or convenient to the exercise of any of the powers or the 12 performance of any of the duties conferred or imposed upon it by 13 this or any other law;

To institute and maintain, or to intervene in, any actions 8. 14 or proceedings in or before any court, board, commission or officer 15 of this or any other state or of the United States to stop or 16 prevent any use, misuse, appropriation or taking of any of the 17 waters of this state which is in whole or in part in violation of 18 any law, or of any rules, orders, judgments or decrees of any court, 19 board, commission or officer of this or any state or of the United 20 States; and to institute and maintain or intervene in any other 21 action or proceeding where the Board deems it necessary to the 22 proper execution and discharge of any of the powers or duties 23 conferred or imposed upon it by law; 24

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1 9. To determine, charge and receive fees to be collected in advance for the filing and examination of applications for permits 2 3 to: 4 a. construct water use works, 5 b. appropriate groundwater, appropriate stream water, 6 с. d. establish vested rights, 7 inspect water use works, 8 e. 9 f. file other papers, make copies of documents, 10 q. make prints of maps and drawings, 11 h. certify copies of documents, maps and drawings, 12 i. file transfers of water rights, j. 13 gauge wells and ditches, changes in point of diversion k. 14 and changes in place of use of water, 15 1. test wells, and 16 hold hearings, make records and provide transcripts of 17 m. hearings. 18 Such fees shall not be collected from any state agency or state 19 institution; 20 10. To negotiate contracts or water compacts with the federal 21 government or any department or bureau thereof, or with any other 22 state for the purpose of obtaining assistance and cooperation in the 23 accomplishment of the purpose of flood control and water 24

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1 conservation and use in the state. To that end, the Board may match 2 funds with the federal government and with other states upon such terms as shall be agreed upon and approved by the Governor of the 3 state, with the limitation that contracts or water compacts with 4 5 other states for the division and apportionment of the cost and use of the water controlled by interstate projects shall be submitted to 6 and approved by the Legislature of the state and the Governor of the 7 state, and Congress and the President of the United States 8 9 conformable to the State Oklahoma Constitution and Federal

10 Constitutions the United States Constitution;

11 11. To accept gifts and grants of money and property or any 12 interest therein;

12. To provide funding from federal and state monies for water
and wastewater project purposes to eligible entities for preliminary
engineering reports and planning and feasibility studies;

16 13. To sell or dispose of real or personal property held by the 17 Board when no longer needed in such manner as provided by law;

18 14. To make appropriations of water to all special purpose 19 districts;

15. To execute and deliver, without actual consideration
therefor, a written release of any easement or easement deed
heretofore given to the <u>Oklahoma</u> Conservation Commission of the
State of Oklahoma, the Planning and Resources Board or the Oklahoma
Water Resources Board on lands situated in this state, whenever it

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shall appear to said the Oklahoma Water Resources Board that the
 need for such easement or easement deed no longer exists; provided,
 the owner of the lands affected shall file a written application for
 such release with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board;

5 16. To review disputes involving service areas or territories, rates for raw or treated water, and abrogation clauses in contracts 6 among municipalities and rural water districts or not-for-profit 7 rural water corporations; to recommend mediation and refer parties 8 9 in appropriate disputes to mediators and provide technical information to such mediators; and to recommend other means of 10 resolving disputes; provided, that no party to such dispute may 11 12 initiate action in any district court regarding the dispute until written notice of the dispute has been filed with the Board; 13 provided further, that the provisions of this paragraph shall not be 14 construed to diminish any right of access to the court granted to a 15 party by law; 16

17. To provide workshop training sessions for board members of 17 rural water districts and not-for-profit rural water corporations 18 throughout the year on a regional basis for the purpose of study and 19 instruction in the areas of financing, law and the ethics, duties 20 and responsibilities of such board members. Such training shall be 21 provided by the Board in conjunction with the Oklahoma Rural Water 22 Association as required by law. To the extent possible, the Board 23 shall attempt to schedule training workshops in three-hour segments 24

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1 to be held in any public facility at a time convenient to the 2 attendees;

To establish an agency special account through the Office 3 18. of Management and Enterprise Services and the State Treasurer's 4 5 Office of the State Treasurer as necessary for the collection and distribution of funds, including funds of sponsors and registration 6 fees related to conferences, meetings and training sessions; and 7 19. To accredit persons having requisite knowledge in 8 9 floodplain management and in minimization and prevention of flood 10 hazards and losses; 20. To impose fines and penalties for overuse of water 11 12 allotments by any permitted well user or any unpermitted well user 13 who is not a domestic user pursuant to this title. Such fines and penalties shall be progressive in nature related to severity and 14 frequency of overuse or unpermitted use and shall result in 15 suspension or revocation of a permit upon multiple infractions by 16 17 any permitted user over the entirety of the user's permits; and 21. To perform audits and spot checks on permitted users during 18 production of water or to enter into and negotiate the terms of a 19 memorandum of understanding between the Board and other state 20 agencies or districts concerning the contemporary verification of 21 such usage. 22 SECTION 8. 82 O.S. 2021, Section 1085.11, is AMENDATORY 23 amended to read as follows: 24

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Section 1085.11. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall 1 2 compile, index and publish all available data concerning the water resources of this state in forms that will be accessible for use by 3 any citizen of this state. Such information shall include rainfall 4 5 reports and other precipitation data; records of public and private water storage facilities; data on quantity and rate of stream flow; 6 locations of natural and artificial springs; data on water insoak 7 and runoff; extent and depth of underground water reservoirs; 8 9 reports from well-drilling logs; reports of annual permits and usage 10 within groundwater basins; reports on quality of water found in various parts of Oklahoma this state; and an up-to-date compilation 11 12 of all Oklahoma Statutes, rules and regulations pertaining to the 13 conservation, storage, use and distribution of water resources. SECTION 9. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024. 14 Passed the Senate the 14th day of March, 2024. 15 16 17 Presiding Officer of the Senate 18 Passed the House of Representatives the day of 19 2024. 20 21 22 Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives 23 24