

HOUSE BILL No. 2778

By Committee on Appropriations

1-31

9 AN ACT concerning water; relating to the preservation of Cedar Bluff
10 reservoir; also relating to the water stored therein.

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12 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

13 Section 1. (a) In order to protect Cedar Bluff lake from depletion
14 and to protect and preserve the economy of the region and the cities
15 surrounding the lake, there shall be no further releases of water from
16 Cedar Bluff reservoir without the advice and the consent of the Smoky
17 Hill/Saline basin advisory committee and after public hearings conducted
18 in Ellis, Trego and Ness counties. Exceptions to the provisions provided
19 for in this section are:

20 (1) To honor the longstanding contract between the bureau of rec-
21 lamation and the city of Russell;

22 (2) maintenance of the Kansas department of wildlife and parks fa-
23 cilities below the dam;

24 (3) flood control and surplus water purposes; and

25 (4) to comply with the requirements of the Kansas water appropri-
26 ations act as administered by the chief engineer of the division of water
27 resources.

28 (b) The primary use of Cedar Bluff reservoir is hereby designated to
29 be flood control and recreation including fishing, hunting, boating, camp-
30 ing, hiking and activities related thereto.

31 (c) The Kansas water office shall transfer ownership and operating
32 funds related thereto, of the 5,400 acre feet of water stored in the artificial
33 recharge pool (the designated use pool) of the Cedar Bluff lake to the
34 Kansas department of wildlife and parks along with the Kansas water
35 office joint interest in the joint use pool.

36 (d) A water gauge shall be placed below the dam on the Smoky Hill
37 river at the expense of the Kansas water office for the purpose of docu-
38 menting the amount of water flowing downstream caused by seepage
39 under and around the dam.

40 (e) In the event a drought emergency is proven to exist in the cities
41 of Hays and Russell and that no other source of water is available, water
42 stored in the designated use pool (artificial recharge pool) may be released
43 upon application to the Kansas water office, approval of the Smoky Hill/

- 1 Saline basin advisory committee and one public hearing in Trego county.
- 2 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
- 3 publication in the statute book.