

**STORM WATER CAPTURE AMENDMENTS**

2013 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

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**LONG TITLE****General Description:**

This bill prohibits the state engineer from commencing an enforcement action under certain circumstances and provides for the collection and use of precipitation without obtaining a water right in certain circumstances.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ prohibits the state engineer from commencing an enforcement action under certain circumstances;
- ▶ provides for the collection and use of precipitation without obtaining a water right in certain circumstances; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**73-2-25**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapters 282 and 382

**73-3-1.5**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 14

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **73-2-25** is amended to read:

**73-2-25. State engineer enforcement powers.**

(1) For purposes of this section, "initial order" means one of the following issued by the state engineer:

- (a) a notice of violation; or
- (b) a cease and desist order.

33 (2) (a) [~~The~~] Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), the state engineer may  
 34 commence an enforcement action under this section if the state engineer finds that a person:

35 (i) is diverting, impounding, or using water for which no water right has been  
 36 established;

37 (ii) is diverting, impounding, or using water in violation of an existing water right;

38 (iii) violates Section 73-5-4;

39 (iv) violates Section 73-5-9;

40 (v) violates a written distribution order from the state engineer;

41 (vi) violates an order issued under Section 73-3-29 regarding the alteration of the bed  
 42 or bank of a natural stream channel;

43 (vii) violates a notice or order regarding dam safety issued under Chapter 5a, Dam  
 44 Safety;

45 (viii) fails to submit a report required by Section 73-3-25; or

46 (ix) engages in well drilling without a license required by Section 73-3-25.

47 (b) The state engineer may not commence an enforcement action against a person  
 48 under Subsection (2)(a)(i), if the person directly captures, or stores, precipitation on the surface  
 49 of, or under, a parcel owned or leased by the person, including in a catch basin, storm drain  
 50 pipe, swell, or pond, if the collection or storage:

51 (i) is consistent with local laws and ordinances;

52 (ii) does not interfere with an existing water right; and

53 (iii) is designed to slow, detain, or retain storm water or protect watersheds from  
 54 pollution with the intention that the precipitation:

55 (A) absorbs into the ground or is released for discharge; and

56 (B) is not put to beneficial use.

57 [~~(b)~~] (c) To commence an enforcement action under this section, the state engineer  
 58 shall issue an initial order, which shall include:

59 (i) a description of the violation;

60 (ii) notice of any penalties to which a person may be subject under Section 73-2-26;

61 and

62 (iii) notice that the state engineer may treat each day's violation of the provisions listed  
 63 in Subsection (2)(a) as a separate violation under Subsection 73-2-26(1)(d).

64           ~~[(c)]~~ (d) The state engineer's issuance and enforcement of an initial order is exempt  
65 from Title 63G, Chapter 4, Administrative Procedures Act.

66           (3) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the  
67 state engineer shall make rules necessary to enforce an initial order, which shall include:

68           (a) provisions consistent with this section and Section 73-2-26 for enforcement of the  
69 initial order if a person to whom an initial order is issued fails to respond to the order or abate  
70 the violation;

71           (b) the right to a hearing, upon request by a person against whom an initial order is  
72 issued; and

73           (c) provisions for timely issuance of a final order after:

74           (i) the person to whom the initial order is issued fails to respond to the order or abate  
75 the violation; or

76           (ii) a hearing held under Subsection (3)(b).

77           (4) A person may not intervene in an enforcement action commenced under this  
78 section.

79           (5) After issuance of a final order under rules made pursuant to Subsection (3)(c), the  
80 state engineer shall serve a copy of the final order on the person against whom the order is  
81 issued by:

82           (a) personal service under Utah Rules of Civil Procedure 5; or

83           (b) certified mail.

84           (6) (a) The state engineer's final order may be reviewed by trial de novo by the district  
85 court in:

86           (i) Salt Lake County; or

87           (ii) the county where the violation occurred.

88           (b) A person shall file a petition for judicial review of the state engineer's final order  
89 issued under this section within 20 days from the day on which the final order was served on  
90 that person.

91           (7) The state engineer may bring suit in a court of competent jurisdiction to enforce a  
92 final order issued under this section.

93           (8) If the state engineer prevails in an action brought under Subsection (6)(b) or (7), the  
94 state may recover all court costs and a reasonable attorney fee.

95 Section 2. Section **73-3-1.5** is amended to read:

96 **73-3-1.5. Capture and storage of precipitation.**

97 (1) As used in this section, "parcel" means an identifiable contiguous unit of property  
98 that is treated as separate for valuation or zoning purposes and includes an improvement on  
99 that unit of property.

100 (2) Notwithstanding Section 73-3-2, a person may:

101 (a) directly capture and store precipitation on a parcel owned or leased by the person in  
102 accordance with Subsection (3) or (4); and

103 (b) place the water captured and stored as provided in Subsection (2)(a) to beneficial  
104 use on the parcel on which the water is captured and stored.

105 ~~[(3) If a person collects or stores precipitation in an underground storage container, the  
106 person may collect and store precipitation:]~~

107 ~~[(a) in only one underground storage container for a parcel if the underground storage  
108 container:]~~

109 ~~[(i) has a maximum capacity of no more than 2,500 gallons; and]~~

110 ~~[(ii) is installed in accordance with relevant provisions of the State Construction Code  
111 or an approved code under Title 15A, State Construction and Fire Codes Act; and]~~

112 ~~[(b) after registering for the capture and storage of precipitation in accordance with  
113 Subsection (5):]~~

114 ~~[(4) If a person collects or stores precipitation in a covered storage container, the]~~

115 (3) After registering for the capture and storage of precipitation in accordance with  
116 Subsection (5), a person may collect and store precipitation in a container installed in  
117 accordance with the State Construction Code or an approved code under Title 15A, State  
118 Construction and Fire Codes Act, if:

119 (a) for a person who uses only one container on a parcel, the total capacity of the  
120 container is no more than 2,500 gallons; or

121 (b) for a person who uses more than one container on a parcel, the aggregate capacity  
122 of the containers is no more than 2,500 gallons.

123 (4) A person may collect and store precipitation, without registering under Subsection  
124 (5), in no more than two covered storage containers, if [the maximum] neither covered storage  
125 [capacity of any one covered storage container is not] container has a maximum storage

126 capacity of greater than 100 gallons.

127 (5) (a) The state engineer shall provide a website on which a person may register as  
128 required by Subsection (3).

129 (b) To register, a person shall complete information required by the state engineer  
130 including the:

131 (i) name and address of the person capturing or storing precipitation;

132 (ii) total capacity of all containers storing precipitation; and

133 (iii) street address or other suitable description of the location where precipitation is to  
134 be captured and stored.

135 (6) Beneficial use of water under Subsection (2)(b) does not constitute a water right  
136 and may not be:

137 (a) changed under Section 73-3-3;

138 (b) assigned; or

139 (c) consolidated with a water right.