

Part 5 Eminent Domain

78B-6-501 Eminent domain -- Uses for which right may be exercised.

Subject to the provisions of this part, the right of eminent domain may be exercised on behalf of the following public uses:

- (1) all public uses authorized by the federal government;
- (2) public buildings and grounds for the use of the state, and all other public uses authorized by the Legislature;
- (3)
 - (a) public buildings and grounds for the use of any county, city, town, or board of education;
 - (b) reservoirs, canals, aqueducts, flumes, ditches, or pipes for conducting water or sewage, including to or from a development, for the use of the inhabitants of any county, city, or town, or for the draining of any county, city, or town;
 - (c) the raising of the banks of streams, removing obstructions from streams, and widening, deepening, or straightening their channels;
 - (d) bicycle paths and sidewalks adjacent to paved roads;
 - (e) roads, byroads, streets, and alleys for public vehicular use, including for access to a development, excluding trails, paths, or other ways for walking, hiking, bicycling, equestrian use, or other recreational uses, or whose primary purpose is as a foot path, equestrian trail, bicycle path, or walkway; and
 - (f) all other public uses for the benefit of any county, city, or town, or its inhabitants;
- (4) wharves, docks, piers, chutes, booms, ferries, bridges, toll roads, byroads, plank and turnpike roads, roads for transportation by traction engines or road locomotives, roads for logging or lumbering purposes, and railroads and street railways for public transportation;
- (5) reservoirs, dams, watergates, canals, ditches, flumes, tunnels, aqueducts and pipes for the supplying of persons, mines, mills, smelters or other works for the reduction of ores, with water for domestic or other uses, or for irrigation purposes, or for the draining and reclaiming of lands, or for solar evaporation ponds and other facilities for the recovery of minerals in solution;
- (6)
 - (a) roads, railroads, tramways, tunnels, ditches, flumes, pipes, and dumping places to access or facilitate the milling, smelting, or other reduction of ores, or the working of mines, quarries, coal mines, or mineral deposits including oil, gas, and minerals in solution;
 - (b) outlets, natural or otherwise, for the deposit or conduct of tailings, refuse or water from mills, smelters or other works for the reduction of ores, or from mines, quarries, coal mines or mineral deposits including minerals in solution;
 - (c) mill dams;
 - (d) gas, oil or coal pipelines, tanks or reservoirs, including any subsurface stratum or formation in any land for the underground storage of natural gas, and in connection with that, any other interests in property which may be required to adequately examine, prepare, maintain, and operate underground natural gas storage facilities;
 - (e) solar evaporation ponds and other facilities for the recovery of minerals in solution; and
 - (f) any occupancy in common by the owners or possessors of different mines, quarries, coal mines, mineral deposits, mills, smelters, or other places for the reduction of ores, or any place for the flow, deposit or conduct of tailings or refuse matter;
- (7) byroads leading from a highway to:
 - (a) a residence; or

- (b) a farm;
- (8) telecommunications, electric light and electric power lines, sites for electric light and power plants, or sites for the transmission of broadcast signals from a station licensed by the Federal Communications Commission in accordance with 47 C.F.R. Part 73 and that provides emergency broadcast services;
- (9) sewage service for:
 - (a) a city, a town, or any settlement of not fewer than 10 families;
 - (b) a public building belonging to the state; or
 - (c) a college or university;
- (10) canals, reservoirs, dams, ditches, flumes, aqueducts, and pipes for supplying and storing water for the operation of machinery for the purpose of generating and transmitting electricity for power, light or heat;
- (11) cemeteries and public parks, except for a park whose primary use is:
 - (a) as a trail, path, or other way for walking, hiking, bicycling, or equestrian use; or
 - (b) to connect other trails, paths, or other ways for walking, hiking, bicycling, or equestrian use;
- (12) sites for mills, smelters or other works for the reduction of ores and necessary to their successful operation, including the right to take lands for the discharge and natural distribution of smoke, fumes, and dust, produced by the operation of works, provided that the powers granted by this section may not be exercised in any county where the population exceeds 20,000, or within one mile of the limits of any city or incorporated town nor unless the proposed condemner has the right to operate by purchase, option to purchase or easement, at least 75% in value of land acreage owned by persons or corporations situated within a radius of four miles from the mill, smelter or other works for the reduction of ores; nor beyond the limits of the four-mile radius; nor as to lands covered by contracts, easements, or agreements existing between the condemner and the owner of land within the limit and providing for the operation of such mill, smelter, or other works for the reduction of ores; nor until an action shall have been commenced to restrain the operation of such mill, smelter, or other works for the reduction of ores.

Amended by Chapter 59, 2014 General Session

78B-6-502 Estates and rights that may be taken.

The following estates and rights in lands are subject to being taken for public use:

- (1) a fee simple, when taken for:
 - (a) public buildings or grounds;
 - (b) permanent buildings;
 - (c) reservoirs and dams, and permanent flooding occasioned by them;
 - (d) any permanent flood control structure affixed to the land;
 - (e) an outlet for a flow, a place for the deposit of debris or tailings of a mine, mill, smelter, or other place for the reduction of ores; and
 - (f) solar evaporation ponds and other facilities for the recovery of minerals in solution, except when the surface ground is underlaid with minerals, coal, or other deposits sufficiently valuable to justify extraction, only a perpetual easement may be taken over the surface ground over the deposits;
- (2) an easement, when taken for any other use; and
- (3) the right of entry upon and occupation of lands, with the right to take from those lands earth, gravel, stones, trees, and timber as necessary for a public use.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 3, 2008 General Session

78B-6-503 Private property which may be taken.

Private property which may be taken under this part includes:

- (1) all real property belonging to any person;
- (2) lands belonging to the state, or to any county, city or incorporated town, not appropriated to some public use;
- (3) property appropriated to public use; provided that the property may not be taken unless for a more necessary public use than that to which it has already been appropriated;
- (4) franchises for toll roads, toll bridges, ferries, and all other franchises; provided that the franchises may not be taken unless for free highways, railroads, or other more necessary public use;
- (5) all rights of way for any and all purposes mentioned in Section 78B-6-501 hereof, and any and all structures and improvements on the property, and the lands held or used in connection with the property, shall be subject to be connected with, crossed, or intersected by any other right of way or improvement or structure; they shall also be subject to a limited use in common with the owners, when necessary; but uses of crossings, intersections, and connections shall be made in the manner most compatible with the greatest public benefit and the least private injury; and
- (6) all classes of private property not enumerated if the taking is authorized by law.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 3, 2008 General Session

78B-6-503.5 Other property which may be taken -- State as plaintiff.

- (1) Subject to Subsections (2) and (3), property which may be taken under this part includes property possessed by the federal government unless the property was acquired by the federal government with the consent of the Legislature and in accordance with the United States Constitution Article I, Section 8, Clause 17.
- (2) The state shall be the plaintiff described in Section 78B-6-507 in an action to condemn property described in Subsection (1).
- (3) The following do not apply to an action authorized under Subsection (1):
 - (a) Section 78B-6-505;
 - (b) Section 78B-6-520;
 - (c) Section 78B-6-521; and
 - (d) Title 57, Chapter 12, Utah Relocation Assistance Act.

Enacted by Chapter 250, 2010 General Session

78B-6-504 Conditions precedent to taking.

- (1) Before property can be taken it must appear that:
 - (a) the use to which it is to be applied is a use authorized by law;
 - (b) the taking is necessary for the use;
 - (c) construction and use of all property sought to be condemned will commence within a reasonable time as determined by the court, after the initiation of proceedings under this part; and
 - (d) if already appropriated to some public use, the public use to which it is to be applied is a more necessary public use.
- (2)
 - (a) As used in this section, "governing body" means:

- (i) for a county, city, or town, the legislative body of the county, city, or town; and
 - (ii) for any other political subdivision of the state, the person or body with authority to govern the affairs of the political subdivision.
- (b) Property may not be taken by a political subdivision of the state unless the governing body of the political subdivision approves the taking.
- (c) Before taking a final vote to approve the filing of an eminent domain action, the governing body of each political subdivision intending to take property shall provide written notice to each owner of property to be taken of each public meeting of the political subdivision's governing body at which a vote on the proposed taking is expected to occur and allow the property owner the opportunity to be heard on the proposed taking.
- (d) The requirement under Subsection (2)(c) to provide notice to a property owner is satisfied by the governing body mailing the written notice to the property owner:
- (i) at the owner's address as shown on the records of the county assessor's office; and
 - (ii) at least 10 business days before the public meeting.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 3, 2008 General Session

78B-6-505 Negotiation and disclosure required before filing an eminent domain action.

- (1) A political subdivision of the state that seeks to acquire property by eminent domain or that intends to use eminent domain to acquire property if the property cannot be acquired in a voluntary transaction shall:
- (a) before the governing body, as defined in Subsection 78B-6-504(2)(a), of the political subdivision takes a final vote to approve the filing of an eminent domain action, make a reasonable effort to negotiate with the property owner for the purchase of the property; and
 - (b) except as provided in Subsection (4), as early in the negotiation process described in Subsection (1)(a) as practicable, but no later than 14 days before the day on which a final vote is taken to approve the filing of an eminent domain action:
 - (i) provide the property owner a complete printed copy of the materials provided on the Office of the Property Rights Ombudsman website in accordance with Section 13-43-203 regarding the acquisition of property for a public purpose and a property owner's right to just compensation; and
 - (ii) provide the property owner a written statement in substantially the following form:

"Although this letter is provided as part of an attempt to negotiate with you for the sale of your property or an interest in your property without using the power of eminent domain, [name of political subdivision] may use that power if it is not able to acquire the property by negotiation. Because of that potential, the person negotiating on behalf of the entity is required to provide the following disclosures to you.

 - 1. You are entitled to receive just compensation for your property.
 - 2. You are entitled to an opportunity to negotiate with [name of political subdivision] over the amount of just compensation before any legal action will be filed.
 - a. You are entitled to an explanation of how the compensation offered for your property was calculated.
 - b. If an appraiser is asked to value your property, you are entitled to accompany the appraiser during an inspection of the property.
 - 3. You are entitled to discuss this case with the attorneys at the Office of the Property Rights Ombudsman. The office may be reached at [provide the current contact information for the Office of the Property Rights Ombudsman].

4. The Office of the Property Rights Ombudsman is a neutral state office staffed by attorneys experienced in eminent domain. Their purpose is to assist citizens in understanding and protecting their property rights. You are entitled to ask questions and request an explanation of your legal options.

5. If you have a dispute with [name of political subdivision] over the amount of just compensation due to you, you are entitled to request free mediation or arbitration of the dispute from the Office of the Property Rights Ombudsman. As part of mediation or arbitration, you are entitled to request a free independent valuation of the property.

6. Oral representations or promises made during the negotiation process are not binding upon the entity seeking to acquire the property by eminent domain."

(2) Except as provided in Subsection (4), the entity involved in the acquisition of property may not bring a legal action to acquire the property under this chapter until 30 days after the day on which the disclosure and materials required in Subsection (1)(b)(ii) are provided to the property owner.

(3) A person, other than a political subdivision of the state, that seeks to acquire property by eminent domain or that intends to use eminent domain to acquire property if the property cannot be acquired in a voluntary transaction shall:

(a) before filing an eminent domain action, make a reasonable effort to negotiate with the property owner for the purchase of the property; and

(b) except as provided in Subsection (4), as early in the negotiation process described in Subsection (3)(a) as practicable, but no later than 30 days before the day on which the person files an eminent domain action:

(i) provide the property owner a complete printed copy of the materials provided on the Office of the Property Rights Ombudsman website in accordance with Section 13-43-203 regarding the acquisition of property for a public purpose and a property owner's right to just compensation; and

(ii) provide the property owner a written statement in substantially the following form:

"Although this letter is provided as part of an attempt to negotiate with you for the sale of your property or an interest in your property without using the power of eminent domain, [name of entity] may use that power if it is not able to acquire the property by negotiation. Because of that potential, the person negotiating on behalf of the entity is required to provide the following disclosures to you.

1. You are entitled to receive just compensation for your property.

2. You are entitled to an opportunity to negotiate with [name of entity] over the amount of just compensation before any legal action will be filed.

a. You are entitled to an explanation of how the compensation offered for your property was calculated.

b. If an appraiser is asked to value your property, you are entitled to accompany the appraiser during an inspection of the property.

3. You are entitled to discuss this case with the attorneys at the Office of the Property Rights Ombudsman. The office may be reached at [provide the current contact information for the Office of the Property Rights Ombudsman].

4. The Office of the Property Rights Ombudsman is a neutral state office staffed by attorneys experienced in eminent domain. Their purpose is to assist citizens in understanding and protecting their property rights. You are entitled to ask questions and request an explanation of your legal options.

5. If you have a dispute with [name of entity] over the amount of just compensation due to you, you are entitled to request free mediation or arbitration of the dispute from

the Office of the Property Rights Ombudsman. As part of mediation or arbitration, you are entitled to request a free independent valuation of the property.

6. Oral representations or promises made during the negotiation process are not binding upon the entity seeking to acquire the property by eminent domain."

- (4) The court may, upon a showing of exigent circumstances and for good cause, shorten the 14-day period described in Subsection (1)(b) or the 30-day period described in Subsection (2) or (3)(b).

Amended by Chapter 59, 2014 General Session

78B-6-506 Right of entry for survey and location.

- (1) If land is required for public use, the person or the person's agent in charge of the use may survey and locate the property. It must be located in the manner which will be most compatible with the greatest public good and the least private injury, and subject to the provisions of this chapter.
- (2)
- (a) The person or the person's agent in charge of the public use may, at reasonable times and upon reasonable notice, enter upon the land and make examinations, surveys, and maps of the land.
- (b) Entry upon land as authorized under Subsection (2)(a) does not constitute a cause of action in favor of the owners of the lands, except for actual damage to the land and improvements on the land caused by the entry and which is not repaired on or before the date the examinations and surveys are completed.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 3, 2008 General Session

78B-6-507 Complaint -- Contents.

- (1) The complaint shall contain:
- (a) the name of the corporation, association, commission or person in charge of the public use for which the property is sought, who must be styled plaintiff;
- (b) the names of all owners and claimants of the property, if known, or a statement that they are unknown, who must be styled defendants;
- (c) a statement of the right of the plaintiff;
- (d) if a right of way is sought, its location, general route, beginning and ending, and be accompanied by a map of the proposed right of way, as it is involved in the action or proceeding;
- (e) if any interest in land is sought for a right of way or associated facilities for a subject activity as defined in Section 19-3-318:
- (i) the permission of the governor with the concurrence of the Legislature authorizing:
- (A) use of the site for the subject activity; and
- (B) use of the proposed route for the subject activity; and
- (ii) the proposed route as required by Subsection (1)(d); and
- (f) a description of each piece of land sought to be taken, and whether it includes the whole or only part of an entire parcel or tract.
- (2) All parcels lying in the county and required for the same public use may be included in the same or separate proceedings, at the option of the plaintiff, but the court may consolidate or separate them to suit the convenience of parties.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 3, 2008 General Session

78B-6-508 Who may appear and defend.

All persons in occupation of, or having or claiming an interest in, any of the property described in the complaint, or in the damages for the taking, though not named, including shareholders in a mutual stock water company in a proceeding involving the taking of the company or property belonging to the company, may appear, plead and defend, each in respect to his own property or interest, or that claimed by him, in the same manner as if named in the complaint.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 3, 2008 General Session

78B-6-509 Powers of court or judge -- Settlement offer -- Litigation expenses.

- (1) As used in this section, "litigation expenses" means costs necessary to prepare for and conduct a trial, including:
 - (a) court costs;
 - (b) expert witness fees;
 - (c) appraisal fees; and
 - (d) reasonable attorney fees.
- (2) The court shall have the power to:
 - (a) hear and determine all adverse or conflicting claims to the property sought to be condemned, and the damages; and
 - (b) determine the respective rights of different parties seeking condemnation of the same property.
- (3)
 - (a) A plaintiff described in Subsection 78B-6-507(1)(a) may make a settlement offer for purposes of this Subsection (3) at any time:
 - (i) following the close of discovery as ordered by the court, but no later than 60 days before the first day of trial; or
 - (ii) if no order setting the close of discovery exists:
 - (A) more than nine months from the day that the complaint is filed; and
 - (B) no later than 60 days before the first day of trial.
 - (b) Subject to Subsection (3)(c), an offer under Subsection (3)(a) shall:
 - (i) be in writing;
 - (ii) be served in accordance with Rule 5, Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, on each defendant to whom the offer is addressed;
 - (iii) be an offer made:
 - (A) to the defendant; or
 - (B) if more than one defendant, jointly to all defendants who have appeared in the case and have not been dismissed;
 - (iv) state that the offer is being made under Subsection (3)(a); and
 - (v) specify the amount, less interest and litigation expenses, that the plaintiff is willing to agree is the total just compensation to which the defendant is or defendants jointly are entitled to receive for the property identified in the pending action.
 - (c) An offer described in Subsection (3)(a) may not be filed with the court unless accepted or in connection with a motion for the award of litigation expenses following trial.
 - (d)
 - (i) Unless an offer provides a time for the offer to expire, an offer under Subsection (3)(a) shall expire and be deemed rejected 45 days after service.

- (ii) An offer that expires or is rejected under Subsection (3)(d)(i):
 - (A) is not admissible in evidence; and
 - (B) may not be referred to at trial.
- (4)
 - (a) A defendant who receives an offer under Subsection (3)(a) may accept the offer by serving an acceptance of the offer, prior to its expiration, in accordance with Rule 5, Utah Rules of Civil Procedure.
 - (b) If there is more than one defendant, defendants may accept the offer by serving a joint acceptance of the offer, prior to its expiration, in accordance with Rule 5, Utah Rules of Civil Procedure.
 - (c) Any party may file with the court an offer made under Subsection (3)(a) together with its acceptance made under Subsection (4)(b).
 - (d) A plaintiff is entitled to a final judgment of condemnation as prayed for in the complaint upon paying to the defendant or defendants, or depositing with the court clerk for the benefit of the defendants:
 - (i) the amount of total just compensation agreed to in the offer accepted as described in Subsection (4)(a); and
 - (ii) any interest due as provided by law.
 - (e) If there are multiple defendants, the court shall, upon application filed by a defendant, determine each defendant's respective share of the settlement amount.
- (5)
 - (a) A defendant described in Subsection 78B-6-507(1)(b), or if there is more than one defendant that has appeared in the case and has not been dismissed, then all defendants jointly, may make an offer under this Subsection (5):
 - (i) within 30 days after they receive an offer from the plaintiff under Subsection (3)(a); or
 - (ii) if the plaintiff does not make an offer under Subsection (3)(a), any time following close of discovery as ordered by the court, but not later than 45 days before the first day of trial.
 - (b) An offer described in Subsection (5)(a) shall:
 - (i) be in writing;
 - (ii) be served in accordance with Rule 5, Utah Rules of Civil Procedure;
 - (iii)
 - (A) be made on behalf of the defendant; or
 - (B) if there are multiple defendants, the offer shall be made by and on behalf of all defendants jointly who have appeared in the action and have not been dismissed;
 - (iv) state that the offer is being made under Subsection (5)(a); and
 - (v) specify the amount, less interest and litigation expenses, that the defendant or defendants jointly are willing to agree is the total just compensation to which the defendant is or defendants jointly are entitled to receive for the property identified in the pending action.
 - (c) An offer described in Subsection (5)(a) may not be filed with the court unless accepted or in connection with a motion for the award of litigation expenses following trial.
 - (d) An offer of settlement made by less than all defendants that have appeared in the case and have not been dismissed:
 - (i) is not an offer under Subsection (5)(a); and
 - (ii) may not be a basis for awarding litigation expenses under Subsection (7).
 - (e)
 - (i) Unless an offer provides a time for the offer to expire, an offer under Subsection (5)(a) shall expire and be deemed rejected 21 days after service.

- (ii) An offer that expires or is rejected under Subsection (5)(e)(i) is not admissible in evidence and may not be referred to at trial.
- (6)
- (a) A plaintiff who receives an offer under Subsection (5)(a) may accept the offer by serving an acceptance of the offer, prior to its expiration, in accordance with Rule 5, Utah Rules of Civil Procedure.
 - (b) Any party may file with the court an offer made under Subsection (5)(a) together with its acceptance made under Subsection (6)(a).
 - (c) A plaintiff is entitled to a final judgment of condemnation as prayed for in the complaint upon paying to the defendant or defendants, or depositing with the court clerk for the benefit of the defendants:
 - (i) the amount of total just compensation agreed to in the offer accepted as described in Subsection (6)(a); and
 - (ii) any interest due as provided by law.
 - (d) If there are multiple defendants, the court shall, upon application filed by a defendant, determine each defendant's respective share of the settlement amount.
- (7)
- (a) Subject to Subsection (7)(b), if the total just compensation awarded to a defendant or defendants, less interest and litigation expenses, is greater than the amount of total just compensation specified in the last settlement offer made by a defendant or defendants under Subsection (5)(a), the court shall award the defendant or defendants litigation expenses not to exceed 1/3 of the amount by which the award of just compensation exceeds the amount offered in the last settlement offer under Subsection (5)(a).
 - (b) An award under Subsection (7)(a) may not exceed:
 - (i) if there is one defendant in the case, \$50,000; or
 - (ii) if there are multiple defendants in the case, \$100,000 total.
 - (c) The court shall include any amounts awarded under Subsection (7)(a) in the judgment awarding compensation.
- (8)
- (a) Subject to Subsection (8)(b), if the total just compensation awarded to a defendant or defendants, less interest and litigation expenses, is less than the amount of total just compensation specified in the last settlement offer made by a plaintiff under Subsection (3)(a), the court shall award the plaintiff litigation expenses not to exceed 1/3 of the amount by which the last offer of settlement made under Subsection (3)(a) exceeds the total just compensation awarded.
 - (b) An award under Subsection (8)(a) may not exceed \$50,000.
 - (c) The court shall reduce the judgment awarding just compensation by the amount of litigation expenses awarded to the plaintiff under Subsection (8)(a).
- (9) If the total just compensation awarded to a defendant, less interest or litigation expenses, is between an offer made by a plaintiff under Subsection (3)(a) and an offer made by the defendant under Subsection (5)(a), the court may not award litigation expenses to either plaintiff or a defendant.
- (10)
- (a) If a plaintiff does not make an offer under Subsection (3)(a), the court may not award:
 - (i) the plaintiff litigation expenses; or
 - (ii) the defendant litigation expenses more than the defendant's last offer under Subsection (5)(a), if the defendant made an offer under Subsection (5)(a).
 - (b) If a defendant does not make an offer under Subsection (5)(a), the court may not award:

- (i) the defendant litigation expenses; or
 - (ii) the plaintiff litigation expenses more than the plaintiff's last offer under Subsection (3)(a), if the plaintiff made an offer under Subsection (3)(a).
- (11) A claim for attorney fees under this section must be supported by an hourly billing statement.
- (12) Subsections (3) through (10) do not apply to an action filed before July 1, 2010.

Amended by Chapter 26, 2010 General Session

78B-6-510 Occupancy of premises pending action -- Deposit paid into court -- Procedure for payment of compensation.

- (1)
- (a) At any time after the commencement of suit, and after giving notice to the defendant as provided in the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, the plaintiff may file a motion with the court requesting an order permitting the plaintiff to:
 - (i) occupy the premises sought to be condemned pending the action, including appeal; and
 - (ii) to do whatever work on the premises that is required.
 - (b) Except as ordered by the court for good cause shown, a defendant may not be required to reply to a motion for immediate occupancy before expiration of the time to answer the complaint.
- (2) The court shall:
- (a) take proof by affidavit or otherwise of:
 - (i) the value of the premises sought to be condemned;
 - (ii) the damages that will accrue from the condemnation; and
 - (iii) the reasons for requiring a speedy occupation; and
 - (b) grant or refuse the motion according to the equity of the case and the relative damages that may accrue to the parties.
- (3)
- (a) If the motion is granted, the court shall enter its order requiring that the plaintiff, as a condition precedent to occupancy, file with the clerk of the court a sum equal to the condemning authority's appraised valuation of the property sought to be condemned.
 - (b) That amount shall be for the purposes of the motion only and is not admissible in evidence on final hearing.
- (4)
- (a) Upon the filing of the petition for immediate occupancy, the court shall fix the time within which, and the terms upon which, the parties in possession are required to surrender possession to the plaintiff.
 - (b) The court may issue orders governing encumbrances, liens, rents, assessments, insurance, and other charges, if any, as required.
- (5)
- (a) The rights of just compensation for the land taken as authorized by this section or damaged as a result of that taking vests in the parties entitled to it.
 - (b) That compensation shall be ascertained and awarded as provided in Section 78B-6-511.
 - (c)
 - (i) Except as provided in Subsection (5)(c)(ii), judgment shall include, as part of the just compensation awarded, interest at the rate of 8% per annum on the amount finally awarded as the value of the property and damages, from the date of taking actual possession of the property by the plaintiff or from the date of the order of occupancy, whichever is earlier, to the date of judgment.

- (ii) The court may not award interest on the amount of the judgment that was paid into court.
- (6)
- (a) Upon the application of the parties in interest, the court shall order that the money deposited in the court be paid before judgment as an advance on the just compensation to be awarded in the proceeding.
 - (b) This advance payment to a defendant shall be considered to be an abandonment by the defendant of all defenses except a claim for greater compensation.
 - (c) If the compensation finally awarded exceeds the advance, the court shall enter judgment against the plaintiff for the amount of the deficiency.
 - (d) If the advance received by the defendant is greater than the amount finally awarded, the court shall enter judgment against the defendant for the amount of the excess.
- (7) Arbitration of a dispute under Section 13-43-204 or 78B-6-522 is not a bar or cause to stay the action for occupancy of premises authorized by this section.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 3, 2008 General Session

78B-6-511 Compensation and damages -- How assessed.

The court, jury, or referee shall hear any legal evidence offered by any of the parties to the proceedings, and determine and assess:

- (1)
- (a) the value of the property sought to be condemned and all improvements pertaining to the realty;
 - (b) the value of each and every separate estate or interest in the property; and
 - (c) if it consists of different parcels, the value of each parcel and of each estate or interest in each shall be separately assessed;
- (2) if the property sought to be condemned constitutes only a part of a larger parcel, the damages which will accrue to the portion not sought to be condemned by reason of its severance from the portion sought to be condemned and the construction of the improvement in the manner proposed by the plaintiff;
- (3) if the property, though no part of it is taken, will be damaged by the construction of the proposed improvement, and the amount of the damages;
- (4) separately, how much the portion not sought to be condemned, and each estate or interest in it, will be benefitted, if at all, by the construction of the improvement proposed by the plaintiff. If the benefit is equal to the damages assessed under Subsection (2), the owner of the parcel shall be allowed no compensation except the value of the portion taken; but if the benefit is less than the damages assessed, the former shall be deducted from the latter, and the remainder shall be the only damages allowed in addition to the value of the portion taken;
- (5) if the property sought to be condemned consists of water rights or part of a water delivery system or both, and the taking will cause present or future damage to or impairment of the water delivery system not being taken, including impairment of the system's carrying capacity, an amount to compensate for the damage or impairment;
- (6) if land on which crops are growing at the time of service of summons is sought to be condemned, the value that those crops would have had after being harvested, taking into account the expenses that would have been incurred cultivating and harvesting the crops; and
- (7) as far as practicable compensation shall be assessed for each source of damages separately.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 3, 2008 General Session

78B-6-512 Damages -- When right has accrued -- Mitigation or reduction -- Improvements.

- (1) For the purpose of assessing compensation and damages, the right to compensation and damages shall be considered to have accrued at the date of the service of summons, and its actual value at that date shall be the measure of compensation for all property to be actually taken, and the basis of damages to property not actually taken, but injuriously affected, in all cases where damages are allowed, as provided in Section 78B-6-511.
- (2) The court or the jury shall consider mitigation or reduction of damages in its assessment of compensation and damages if, after the date of the service of summons, the plaintiff:
 - (a) mitigates the damages to the property; or
 - (b) reduces the amount of property actually taken.
- (3) Improvements put upon the property by the property owner subsequent to the date of service of summons may not be included in the assessment of compensation or damages.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 3, 2008 General Session

78B-6-513 When title sought found defective -- Another action allowed.

If the title attempted to be acquired is found to be defective from any cause, the plaintiff may again institute proceedings to acquire the property as prescribed in this part.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 3, 2008 General Session

78B-6-514 Payment of award -- Bond from railroad to secure fencing.

The plaintiff shall, within 30 days after final judgment, pay the sum of money assessed; and, if the plaintiff is a railroad company, it shall also execute to the defendant a bond, with sureties, to be determined and approved by the court or judge, conditioned that the plaintiff will build proper fences within six months from the time the railroad is built on or over the land taken. In an action on the bond all damages sustained and the cost of the construction of fences may be recovered.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 3, 2008 General Session

78B-6-515 Distribution of award -- Execution -- Annulment of proceedings on failure to pay.

Payment may be made to the defendants entitled to payment, or the money may be deposited in court for the defendants and distributed to those entitled to payment. If the money is not paid or deposited, the defendants may have execution as in civil cases; and if the money cannot be made on execution, the court upon a showing to that effect shall set aside and annul the entire proceedings, and restore possession of the property to the defendants, if possession has been taken by the plaintiff.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 3, 2008 General Session

78B-6-516 Judgment of condemnation -- Recordation -- Effect.

When payments have been made and the bond given, if the plaintiff elects to give one, as required by Sections 78B-6-514 and 78B-6-515, the court shall make a final judgment of condemnation, which shall describe the property condemned and the purpose of the condemnation. A copy of the judgment shall be filed in the office of the county recorder and the property described in it shall vest in the plaintiff for the purpose specified.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 3, 2008 General Session

78B-6-517 Substitution of bond for deposit paid into court -- Abandonment of action by condemner -- Conditions of dismissal.

In the event that no order is entered by the court permitting payment of the deposit on account of the just compensation to be awarded in the proceeding within 30 days following its deposit, the court may, on application of the condemning authority, permit the substitution of a bond in an amount and with sureties as determined and approved by the court. Condemner, whether a public or private body, may, at any time prior to final payment of compensation and damages awarded the defendant by the court or jury, abandon the proceedings and cause the action to be dismissed without prejudice, provided, however, that as a condition of dismissal condemner first compensate condemnee for all damages he has sustained and also reimburse him in full for all reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred by condemnee because of the filing of the action by condemner, including attorney fees.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 3, 2008 General Session

78B-6-518 Rights of cities and towns not affected.

Nothing in this part may be construed to abrogate or repeal any statute providing for the taking of property in any city or town for street purposes.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 3, 2008 General Session

78B-6-519 When right of way acquired -- Duty of party acquiring.

A party obtaining a right of way shall without delay construct crossings as required by the court or judge, and keep them and the way itself in good repair.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 3, 2008 General Session

78B-6-520 Action to set aside condemnation for failure to commence or complete construction within reasonable time.

- (1) In an action to condemn property, if the court makes a finding of what is a reasonable time for commencement of construction and use of all the property sought to be condemned and the construction and use is not accomplished within the time specified, the condemnee may file an action against the condemnor to set aside the condemnation of the entire parcel or any portion upon which construction and use was to have taken place.
- (2) In the action, if the court finds that the condemnor, without reasonable justification, did not commence or complete construction and use within the time specified, it shall enter judgment fixing the amount the condemnor has paid the condemnee, as a result of condemnation and all amounts due the condemnee as damages sustained by reason of condemnation, including damages resulting from partial completion of the contemplated use, plus all reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred by the condemnee including attorney fees.
- (3) If amounts due the condemnee under Subsection (2) exceed amounts paid by the condemnor, or these amounts are equal, judgment shall be entered in favor of the condemnee, which judgment shall describe the property condemned and award judgment for any amounts due condemnee. A copy of the judgment shall be filed in the office of the county recorder of the county, and the property described in the judgment shall vest in the condemnee.
- (4) If amounts paid by the condemnor under Subsection (2) exceed amounts due the condemnee, judgment shall be entered describing the property condemned and giving the condemnee

60 days from the date of the judgment to pay the difference between the amounts to the condemnor. If payment is made, the court shall amend the judgment to reflect the payment and order the amended judgment filed with the office of the county recorder of the county, and the property described in the judgment shall vest in the condemnee. If payment is not made, the court shall amend the judgment to reflect nonpayment and order the amended judgment filed with the county recorder.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 3, 2008 General Session

78B-6-520.3 Property sold under threat of eminent domain -- Right to repurchase property if property not used for purpose for which acquired.

- (1) As used in this section:
 - (a) "Acquired property" means property that a condemnor purchases after May 11, 2009 from a condemnee under threat of condemnation.
 - (b) "Acquisition price" means the price which a condemnor pays a condemnee for property that the condemnor acquires under threat of condemnation.
 - (c) "Condemnee" means an owner of property who sells the property to a condemnor under threat of condemnation.
 - (d) "Condemnor" means a person who acquires property by purchase from a condemnee under threat of condemnation.
 - (e) "Under threat of condemnation" means the circumstances under which a condemnor, with the right to acquire the property by eminent domain, acquires property from a condemnee in a transaction that occurs:
 - (i) without a judgment having been entered in an eminent domain action; and
 - (ii) after the condemnor has sent the condemnee a written notice indicating an intent to pursue an eminent domain action to a judgment compelling the transaction.
- (2) At the time of or within a reasonable time after an acquisition of property under threat of condemnation, a condemnor shall provide the condemnee a written statement identifying the public use for which the property is being acquired.
- (3) Subject to Subsection (6), before the acquired property may be put to a use other than the public use for which the property was acquired, the condemnor shall send a written offer by certified mail to the condemnee at the condemnee's last known address, offering to sell the acquired property to the condemnee at the acquisition price.
- (4)
 - (a) A condemnee may accept an offer under Subsection (3) if the offer is accepted within 90 days after the offer is sent to the condemnee.
 - (b) A condemnee's purchase of acquired property under this section shall be concluded within a reasonable time after the condemnee accepts the condemnor's offer to sell the acquired property.
- (5) If the condemnee does not accept an offer under Subsection (3) within the time specified in Subsection (4), the condemnor has no further obligation under this section to the condemnee with respect to the acquired property.
- (6) If a condemnor puts acquired property to the public use for which the property was acquired, the condemnor's obligation under Subsection (3) to offer to sell the acquired property to the condemnee terminates, even if the acquired property is subsequently put to a use other than the public use for which the property was acquired.
- (7) A sale or transfer of acquired property none of which has been put to the public use for which the property was acquired is:

- (a) considered to be a use other than the public use for which the property was acquired; and
 - (b) governed by this section and not Section 78B-6-521.
- (8) Nothing in this section may be construed to affect any right or obligation under Section 78B-6-521.
- (9) A condemnee may waive the condemnee's right to purchase acquired property as provided in this section by executing a written waiver.

Enacted by Chapter 322, 2009 General Session

78B-6-521 Sale of property acquired by eminent domain.

- (1) As used in this section, "condemnation or threat of condemnation" means:
- (a) acquisition through an eminent domain proceeding; or
 - (b) an official body of the state or a subdivision of the state, having the power of eminent domain, has specifically authorized the use of eminent domain to acquire the real property.
- (2) If the state or one of its subdivisions, at its sole discretion, declares real property that is acquired through condemnation or threat of condemnation to be surplus real property, it may not sell the real property on the open market unless:
- (a) the real property has been offered for sale to the original grantor, at the highest offer made to the state or one of its subdivisions with first right of refusal being given to the original grantor;
 - (b) the original grantor expressly waived in writing the first right of refusal on the offer or failed to accept the offer within 90 days after notification by registered mail to the last-known address; and
 - (c) neither the state nor the subdivision of the state selling the property is involved in the rezoning of the property or the acquisition of additional property to enhance the value of the real property to be sold.
- (3) This section shall only apply to property acquired after July 1, 1983.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 3, 2008 General Session

78B-6-522 Dispute resolution.

- (1) In any dispute between a condemner and a private property owner arising out of this chapter, or a dispute over the taking of private property for a public use without the prior use of eminent domain, the private property owner may submit the dispute for mediation or arbitration to the Office of the Property Rights Ombudsman under Section 13-43-204.
- (2) An action submitted to the Office of the Property Rights Ombudsman under authority of this section does not bar or stay any action for occupancy of premises authorized by Section 78B-6-510.
- (3)
- (a)
 - (i) A mediator or arbitrator, acting at the request of the property owner under Section 13-43-204, has standing in an action brought in district court under this chapter to file with the court a motion to stay the action during the pendency of the mediation or arbitration.
 - (ii) A mediator or arbitrator may not file a motion to stay under Subsection (3)(a)(i) unless the mediator or arbitrator certifies at the time of filing the motion that a stay is reasonably necessary to reach a resolution of the case through mediation or arbitration.
 - (b) If a stay is granted pursuant to a motion under Subsection (3)(a) and the order granting the stay does not specify when the stay terminates, the mediator or arbitrator shall file with the district court a motion to terminate the stay within 30 days after:

- (i) the resolution of the dispute through mediation;
 - (ii) the issuance of a final arbitration award; or
 - (iii) a determination by the mediator or arbitrator that mediation or arbitration is not appropriate.
- (4)
- (a) The private property owner or displaced person may request that the mediator or arbitrator authorize an additional appraisal.
 - (b) If the mediator or arbitrator determines that an additional appraisal is reasonably necessary to reach a resolution of the case, the mediator or arbitrator may:
 - (i) have an additional appraisal of the property prepared by an independent appraiser; and
 - (ii) require the condemnor to pay the costs of the first additional appraisal.

Amended by Chapter 59, 2014 General Session