

HB0041S01 compared with HB0041

{Omitted text} shows text that was in HB0041 but was omitted in HB0041S01

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0041 but was inserted into HB0041S01

DISCLAIMER: This document is provided to assist you in your comparison of the two bills. Sometimes this automated comparison will NOT be completely accurate. Therefore, you need to read the actual bills. This automatically generated document could contain inaccuracies caused by: limitations of the compare program; bad input data; or other causes.

1 **State Water Policy Amendments**

. 2025 GENERAL SESSION

. STATE OF UTAH

. **Chief Sponsor: Carl R. Albrecht**



2
3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill amends the state water policy.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

- 12 ▶ addresses water quality in groundwater;
- 13 ▶ ~~{removes language related to balancing certain values or needs in water policy;}~~
- 9 ▶ references saved water;
- 14 ▶ encourages monitoring of watersheds in consultation with watershed councils;
- 15 ▶ promotes state water planning;
- 16 ▶ accounts for regionally appropriate water reuse; and
- 17 ▶ makes technical changes.

14 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

15 None

16 None

19 AMENDS:

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73-1-21 , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 37 , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 37

- 21

- 22 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*
- 23 Section 1. Section 73-1-21 is amended to read:
- 24 **73-1-21. State water policy.**
- 29 (1) It is the policy of the state that:
- 30 (a) Utah shall pursue adequate, reliable, affordable, sustainable, and clean water resources, recognizing
that Utah is one of the most arid states in the nation and as such, there is, and will continue to be, a
need to ensure Utah's finite water resources are used beneficially;
- 34 (b) Utah will promote:
- 35 (i) water conservation, efficiency, and the optimal use of water resources, while identifying intended
and unintended consequences to ensure appropriate choice and implementation of particular
strategies;
- 38 (ii) water resource development and the creation of new water infrastructure necessary to meet the
state's growing demand and promote economic development;
- 40 (iii) compliance with state statutes regarding Lake Powell pipeline development and Bear River
development;
- 42 (iv) the timely replacement of aging or inefficient water resource, drinking water, wastewater, and
storm water infrastructure;
- 44 (v) the optimal use of agricultural water to sustain and improve food production and the productive
capacity of agricultural lands;
- 46 (vi) water quality in rivers~~[and]~~ , lakes, and groundwater that:
- 47 (A) complies with state clean water and safe drinking water statutes; and
- 48 (B) protects public health;
- 49 (vii) water pricing and funding mechanisms that:
- 50 (A) provide revenue stability while encouraging conservation, efficiency, and optimization
efforts;~~[and]~~
- 52 (B) adequately cover infrastructure needs;~~[[and]]~~
- 53 ~~[(C) balance social, economic, public interest, and environmental values;]]~~
- 54 (viii) respect for water rights;

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- 55 (ix) standards for accurate water use measurement, telemetry, tracking, enforcement, and reporting;
- 57 (x) efforts to educate and engage the public in:
- 58 (A) individual actions that protect water quality, including preventing and mitigating water pollution;
and
- 60 (B) conservation practices and the efficient and optimal use of water resources;
- 61 (xi) the implementation of cyber security and physical security measures for water infrastructure;
- 63 (xii) the study and consideration of mechanisms for increased flexibility in water use such as water
banking, saved water, and split season uses;
- 65 (xiii) the monitoring, in consultation with watershed councils created under Chapter 10g, Part 3, Watershed Councils Act, of activities in watersheds that provide water to drinking water systems to
protect the watersheds;
- 67 [~~(xiii)~~] (xiv) continued improvements in the management of water resources through protection,
restoration, and science-based evaluation of Utah watersheds, increased reservoir capacity, and
aquifer recharge or aquifer storage and recovery;
- 70 [~~(xiv)~~] (xv) the development and beneficial use of Utah's allocated share of interstate rivers, including
Utah's allocations under the 1922 and 1948 Colorado River Compacts and the 1980 Amended Bear
River Compact;
- 73 [~~(xv)~~] (xvi) the study and development of strategies and practices necessary to address declining water
levels and protect the water quality and quantity of the Great Salt Lake, Utah Lake, and Bear Lake,
taking into consideration natural climate change, natural weather systems and patterns, and normal
cyclic water level change over time ~~{~~ while balancing economic, social, and environmental needs ~~}~~
;
- 78 [~~(xvi)~~] (xvii) regulations and practices, including voluntary practices, that maintain sufficient stream
flows and lake levels to provide reasonable access to recreational activities and protect and restore
water quality, quantity, and healthy ecosystems, including protecting groundwater and surface water
sources from pollution;
- 82 [~~(xvii)~~] (xviii) equitable access to safe, affordable, and reliable drinking water to protect public health;
- 84 [~~(xviii)~~] (xix) regulations and practices that encourage effective treatment of wastewater to maximize its
availability for beneficial use and minimize depletion and the further degradation of other waters;
- 87 [~~(xix)~~] (xx) the control of invasive species that threaten or degrade waters of the state;
- 88

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- [(xx)] (xxi) coordination among the state, water providers, water users, local governments, government agencies, and researchers in the study of ways weather and climate will impact future water supplies, demand, and quality;
- 91 (xxii) state water planning, including the formation of the state water plan as provided in Section 73-10-15;
- 93 (xxiii) water reuse with appropriate conditions for the region in which the water reuse occurs;
- 95 [~~xxi~~] (xxiv) water laws, rules, and enforcement that are consistent with this Subsection (1) and encourage transparency, order, and certainty in the use of public water;
- 98 [~~xxii~~] (xxv) the support and funding of research, science, and technology necessary to achieve the provisions of this Subsection (1); and
- 100 [~~xxiii~~] (xxvi) the collaboration, cooperation, and engagement of stakeholders in the identification and advancement of actions that support the provisions of this Subsection (1); and
- 103 (c) Utah supports the timely and appropriate negotiated settlement of federally reserved water right claims for both Native American trust lands and other existing federal reservations, and opposes any future designation of public lands that does not quantify any associated federally reserved water rights.
- 107 (2) State agencies are encouraged to conduct agency activities consistent with Subsection (1) and implement policies established by the Legislature that promote the near- and long-term stewardship of water quality and water resources.
- 110 (3) This section does not create a cause of action against the state's or a state agency's action that is inconsistent with Subsection (1) and does not waive governmental immunity under Title 63G, Chapter 7, Governmental Immunity Act of Utah.
- 113 (4) The Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee shall review the state water policy annually and recommend priority balancing and any other changes to the Legislature.

113 Section 2. **Effective date.**

This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.

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