

SB0080S02 compared with SB0080

~~{Omitted text}~~ shows text that was in SB0080 but was omitted in SB0080S02

inserted text shows text that was not in SB0080 but was inserted into SB0080S02

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1 **~~{Drinking-}~~ Water Fee Amendments**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Scott D. Sandall

House Sponsor: Casey Snider

3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill ~~{ modifies the Safe Drinking Water Act }~~ allows state agencies to ~~{ include }~~ develop a fee
6 schedule for water consumption.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

- 8 ▶ requires the Department of Environmental Quality (department) to establish a fee schedule;
- 10 ▶ requires the Water Development Coordinating Council (state council) to establish a fee schedule beginning on July 1, 2026;
- 12 ▶ exempts a special service district from certain fee requirements to pay the fees established by the department and state council;
- 9 ▶ outlines requirements related to the fee ~~{ schedule }~~ schedules developed by the department and the state council;
- 10 ▶ allows the ~~{ Department of Environmental Quality }~~ department to establish a financial incentive to comply with certain criteria;
- 12 ▶ provides for the collection of fees by the department and the state council;

SB0080 compared with SB0080S02

- 13 ▶ creates an exemption {~~related to~~} for wholesale water suppliers from the department's and state
14 council's fees;
- 14 ▶ provides {~~that~~} for the deposit of fees {~~are treated as dedicated credits~~} into the Water
15 Infrastructure Fund; {~~and~~}
- 21 ▶ requires the department and state council to report on the fee schedule to the Natural
22 Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee;
- 15 ▶ requires monitoring of fees{~~:~~} ; and
- 24 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

25 Money Appropriated in this Bill:

26 None

27 Other Special Clauses:

28 This bill provides a special effective date.

30 AMENDS:

31 17B-1-121 (Effective 05/07/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter
32 15 (Effective 05/07/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 15

32 17B-1-643 (Effective 05/07/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter
33 382 (Effective 05/07/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 382

33 63I-2-219 (Effective 05/07/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third Special
34 Session, Chapter 5 (Effective 05/07/25), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third
35 Special Session, Chapter 5

35 63I-2-273 (Effective 07/01/26), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third Special
36 Session, Chapter 5 (Effective 07/01/26), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third
37 Special Session, Chapter 5

37 ENACTS:

38 19-4-116 (Effective 05/07/25), Utah Code Annotated 1953 (Effective 05/07/25), Utah Code
39 Annotated 1953

39 73-10g-606 (Effective 07/01/26), Utah Code Annotated 1953 (Effective 07/01/26), Utah Code
40 Annotated 1953

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

42 Section 1. Section 17B-1-121 is amended to read:

SB0080 compared with SB0080S02

- 43 **17B-1-121. Limit on fees -- Requirement to itemize and account for fees -- Appeals.**
- 45 (1) A special district may not impose or collect:
- 46 (a) an application fee that exceeds the reasonable cost of processing the application; or
- 47 (b) an inspection or review fee that exceeds the reasonable cost of performing an inspection or review.
- 49 (2)
- (a) Upon request by a service applicant who is charged a fee or an owner of residential property upon which a fee is imposed, a special district shall provide a statement of each itemized fee and calculation method for each fee.
- 52 (b) If an applicant who is charged a fee or an owner of residential property upon which a fee is imposed submits a request for a statement of each itemized fee no later than 30 days after the day on which the applicant or owner pays the fee, the special district shall, no later than 10 days after the day on which the request is received, provide or commit to provide within a specific time:
- 57 (i) for each fee, any studies, reports, or methods relied upon by the special district to create the calculation method described in Subsection (2)(a);
- 59 (ii) an accounting of each fee paid;
- 60 (iii) how each fee will be distributed by the special district; and
- 61 (iv) information on filing a fee appeal through the process described in Subsection (2)(c).
- 63 (c)
- (i) A special district shall establish an impartial fee appeal process to determine whether a fee reflects only the reasonable estimated cost of delivering the service for which the fee was paid.
- 66 (ii) A party to a fee appeal described in Subsection (2)(c)(i) may petition for judicial review of the special district's final decision.
- 68 (3) A special district may not impose on or collect from a public agency a fee associated with the public agency's development of the public agency's land other than:
- 70 (a) subject to Subsection (1), a hookup fee; or
- 71 (b) an impact fee, as defined in Section 11-36a-102 and subject to Section 11-36a-402, for a public facility listed in Subsection 11-36a-102(17)(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (g).
- 73 (4) This section does not apply to a fee or fee increase that is equal to the amount needed to pay a fee imposed on a special service district under Sections 19-4-116 and 73-10g-606.

75 Section 2. Section 17B-1-643 is amended to read:

76 **17B-1-643. Imposing or increasing a fee for service provided by special district.**

SB0080 compared with SB0080S02

- 78 (1)
- (a) Before imposing a new fee or increasing an existing fee for a service provided by a special district, each special district board of trustees shall first hold a public hearing at which:
- 81 (i) the special district shall demonstrate its need to impose or increase the fee; and
- 82 (ii) any interested person may speak for or against the proposal to impose a fee or to increase an existing fee.
- 84 (b) Each public hearing under Subsection (1)(a) shall be held in the evening beginning no earlier than 6 p.m.
- 86 (c) A public hearing required under this Subsection (1) may be combined with a public hearing on a tentative budget required under Section 17B-1-610.
- 88 (d) Except to the extent that this section imposes more stringent notice requirements, the special district board shall comply with Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and Public Meetings Act, in holding the public hearing under Subsection (1)(a).
- 91 (2)
- (a) Each special district board shall give notice of a hearing under Subsection (1) as provided in Subsections (2)(b) and (c) or Subsection (2)(d).
- 93 (b) The special district board shall publish the notice described in Subsection (2)(a) for the special district, as a class A notice under Section 63G-30-102, for at least 30 days.
- 95 (c) The notice described in Subsection (2)(b) shall state that the special district board intends to impose or increase a fee for a service provided by the special district and will hold a public hearing on a certain day, time, and place fixed in the notice, which shall be not less than seven days after the day the notice is first posted as provided in Subsection (2)(b) for the purpose of hearing comments regarding the proposed imposition or increase of a fee and to explain the reasons for the proposed imposition or increase.
- 102 (d)
- (i) In lieu of providing notice under Subsection (2)(b), the special district board of trustees may give the notice required under Subsection (2)(a) by mailing the notice to those within the district who:
- 105 (A) will be charged the fee for a district service, if the fee is being imposed for the first time; or
- 107 (B) are being charged a fee, if the fee is proposed to be increased.
- 108 (ii) Each notice under Subsection (2)(d)(i) shall comply with Subsection (2)(c).
- 109 (iii) A notice under Subsection (2)(d)(i) may accompany a district bill for an existing fee.

SB0080 compared with SB0080S02

- 111 (e) If the hearing required under this section is combined with the public hearing required under Section
17B-1-610, the notice required under this Subsection (2):
- 113 (i) may be combined with the notice required under Section 17B-1-609; and
- 114 (ii) shall be posted or mailed in accordance with the notice provisions of this section.
- 115 (f) Proof that notice was given as provided in Subsection (2)(b) or (d) is prima facie evidence that
notice was properly given.
- 117 (g) If no challenge is made to the notice given of a hearing required by Subsection (1) within 30 days
after the date of the hearing, the notice is considered adequate and proper.
- 120 (h) After holding a public hearing under Subsection (1), a special district board may:
- 121 (i) impose the new fee or increase the existing fee as proposed;
- 122 (ii) adjust the amount of the proposed new fee or the increase of the existing fee and then impose the
new fee or increase the existing fee as adjusted; or
- 124 (iii) decline to impose the new fee or increase the existing fee.
- 125 (i) This section applies to each new fee imposed and each increase of an existing fee that occurs on or
after July 1, 1998.
- 127 (j)
- (i) This section does not apply to an impact fee.
- 128 (ii) The imposition or increase of an impact fee is governed by Title 11, Chapter 36a, Impact Fees Act.
- 130 (k) This section does not apply to a fee or fee increase that is equal to the amount needed to pay a fee
imposed on a special service district under Sections 19-4-116 and 73-10g-606.

133 Section 3. Section 3 is enacted to read:

134 **19-4-116. (Effective 05/07/25) Fee schedule-- Exemption -- Report -- Monitoring of fees.**

27 (1)

- (a) The department shall establish a fee schedule for the regulation of public water systems in the state
in accordance with Section 63J-1-504.
- 29 (b) To create the fee schedule described in Subsection (1)(a), the department shall:
- 30 (i) complete a review of program costs and indirect costs of regulating public water systems in the state,
after consulting with industry, local governments, special districts, and special service districts;
- 33 (ii) use the findings from the review described in Subsection (1)(b)(i) {to create the fee schedule} ; and
- 35 (iii) evaluate other sources of funding to support the regulation of public water systems in the state.
- 37 (c) The fee schedule described in Subsection (1)(a) may:

SB0080 compared with SB0080S02

- 38 (i) implement an annual fee on a public water system in the state, on the basis of consumption, for the
direct delivery of water to an end user for human consumption and other domestic uses;
- 41 (ii) implement a reasonable fee for plan review;
- 42 (iii) implement a reasonable fee for a public water system sanitary survey;
- 43 (iv) provide for reasonable and timely oversight of the fee schedule by the department; and
- 153 (v) be in an amount needed to reasonably enable the department and public water systems to:
- 45 ~~{(v)} (A) {adequately meet the needs of public water systems and the department, including enabling~~
~~the department to }~~ employ qualified personnel to appropriately oversee public drinking water
regulation~~{:}; and~~
- 157 (B) beginning on July 1, 2026, fund water infrastructure projects ranked and prioritized in the unified
water infrastructure plan under Section 73-10g-603.
- 48 (d) The fee schedule described in Subsection (1)(a) may include fees that provide financial incentives:
- 50 (i) to a public water system that is not a community water system if the public water system complies
with Section 19-4-114; and
- 52 (ii) to a community water system if the community water system:
- 53 (A) installs water meters on each residential connection in the community water system;
- 55 (B) adopts tiered water rates;
- 56 (C) creates a drinking water master plan report within 10 years before the day on which the fee is
imposed; and
- 58 (D) complies with Section 19-4-114.
- 170 (2) Except for a wholesale water supplier that delivers water directly to an end user for human
consumption and other domestic uses, a public water system that is a wholesale water supplier is
exempt from the fee established by Subsection (1)(c)(i).
- 59 ~~{(2)}~~ (3) A public water system shall submit payment of the fee established by Subsection (1) to the
department:
- 61 (a) in accordance with a schedule provided by the department; and
- 62 (b) using a form provided by the department.
- 63 ~~{(3) {Except for a wholesale water supplier that delivers water directly to an end user for human~~
~~consumption and other domestic uses, a public water system that is a wholesale water supplier is~~
~~exempt from the fee established by Subsection (1)(c)(i).-}~~
- 66 ~~{(4) {The department shall:-}~~

SB0080 compared with SB0080S02

- 177 (4)
- 67 (a) ~~{retain}~~ Except as provided in Subsection (4)(b), the department shall deposit fees collected
under this section ~~{as dedicated credits; and}~~ into the Water Infrastructure Fund created in Section
73-10g-107.
- 68 (b) ~~{use}~~ The department shall retain a portion of the fees {to administer the regulation of} collected
under Subsection (1)(c) to offset the department's costs in regulating public water systems.
- 182 (5) On or before October 31, 2025, the department shall report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture,
and Environment Interim Committee regarding the development of the fee schedule described in
Subsection (1).
- 69 ~~{(5)}~~ (6) The Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall monitor fees collected under this section.
- 187 Section 4. Section 63I-2-219 is amended to read:
- 188 **63I-2-219. Repeal dates: Title 19.**
- 189 (1) Section 19-1-109, Clean Air Support Restricted Account, is repealed July 1, 2024.
- 190 (2) Section 19-2a-102.5, Emissions reduction plan study and recommendations, is repealed July 1,
2024.
- 192 (3) Subsection 19-4-116(5), regarding a requirement to report to an interim committee, is repealed
January 1, 2026.
- 194 Section 5. Section 63I-2-273 is amended to read:
- 195 **63I-2-273. Repeal dates: Title 73.**
[Reserved.]Subsection 73-10g-606(3), regarding a requirement to report to an interim
committee, is repealed January 1, 2027.
- 198 Section 6. Section 6 is enacted to read:
- 199 **73-10g-606. Fee schedule -- Report -- Monitoring of fees.**
- 200 (1)
- (a) The state council shall establish a fee schedule for the regulation of public water systems and
secondary water suppliers in the state in accordance with Section 63J-1-504.
- 203 (b) To create a fee schedule for public water systems and secondary water suppliers, the state council
shall use the findings from the review described in Section 73-10-39.
- 205 (c) The fee schedule described in Subsection (1)(a) may:
- 206 (i) implement an annual fee on a public water system in the state, on the basis of consumption, for the
direct delivery of water to an end user for human consumption and other domestic uses;

SB0080 compared with SB0080S02

- 209 (ii) implement an annual fee on a secondary water supplier in the state, on the basis of consumption, for
the direct delivery of water to an end user for irrigation purposes;
- 212 (iii) provide for reasonable and timely oversight of the fee schedule by the department; and
- 214 (iv) be in an amount needed to reasonably enable the state council to:
- 215 (A) provide and maintain the adequate direct delivery of water; and
- 216 (B) fund water infrastructure projects ranked and prioritized in the unified water infrastructure under
Section 73-10g-603.
- 218 (2) A public water system and secondary water supplier shall submit payment of the fee established in
Subsection (1) into the Water Infrastructure Fund created in Section 73-10g-107:
- 221 (a) in accordance with a schedule provided by the state council; and
- 222 (b) using a form provided by the state council.
- 223 (3) On or before October 31, 2026, the state council shall report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture,
and Environment Interim Committee regarding the development of the fee schedule described in
Subsection (1).
- 226 (4) The Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall monitor fees collected under this section.
- 228 Section 7. **Effective date.**
{This } Except as provided in Subsection (2), this bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.
- 230 (2) The actions affecting the following sections take effect on July 1, 2026:
- 231 (a) Section 73-10g-606 (Effective 07/01/26); and
- 232 (b) Section 63I-2-273 (Effective 07/01/26).

2-26-25 7:49 AM