

**Water Rights Restricted Account**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Carl R. Albrecht**

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

This bill modifies provisions creating the Water Rights Restricted Account.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- addresses money for obtaining legal support; and
- makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**73-2-1.6**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 154

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

Section 1. Section **73-2-1.6** is amended to read:

**73-2-1.6 . Water Rights Restricted Account.**

(1) As used in this section:

- (a) "Account" means the Water Rights Restricted Account created by this section.
- (b) "Division" means the Division of Water Rights.

(2) There is created in the General Fund a restricted account known as the "Water Rights Restricted Account."

(3) The account shall consist of the money deposited into the account under Subsection 59-12-103(5)(e).

(4) Upon appropriation, the division may use money in the account for:

- (a) costs incurred by the division that benefit water rights adjudications, including:
  - (i) employing technical staff;
  - (ii) acquiring equipment;

32           ~~[(iii) obtaining legal support;]~~  
33           ~~[(iv)]~~ (iii) conducting studies;  
34           ~~[(A)]~~ (iv) installing, operating, and maintaining measurement infrastructure; and  
35           ~~[(B)]~~ (v) sharing the costs of installed United States Geological Survey stream gauges; [  
36           and]

37           (b) not to exceed 5% of the money deposited into the account under Subsection  
38           59-12-103(5)(e) in the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year of appropriation, costs  
39           incurred by the division to acquire, manage, and analyze surface and groundwater  
40           data, not limited to geographic areas of adjudication~~[-]~~ ; and

41           (c) costs incurred by the division to obtain legal support, not limited to geographic areas  
42           of adjudication.

43           (5)(a) The account may not exceed \$8,000,000 at the end of a fiscal year.

44           (b) If the account exceeds \$8,000,000 at the end of a fiscal year, the Division of Finance  
45           shall deposit into the Water Resources Conservation and Development Fund, created  
46           in Section 73-10-24, the money in excess of the amount necessary to maintain the  
47           account balance at \$8,000,000.

48           Section 2. **Effective Date.**

49           This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.