

**Legislative Water Development Commission Amendments**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Thomas W. Peterson**

Senate Sponsor:

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

This bill addresses membership requirements on the Legislative Water Development Commission.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- establishes a minimum number for commission membership; and
- removes the partisanship requirements for members on the Legislative Water Development Commission.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**73-27-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 229

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

Section 1. Section **73-27-102** is amended to read:

**73-27-102 . Legislative Water Development Commission created.**

(1)(a) The Legislative Water Development Commission is created to determine the state's role in the protection, conservation, and development of the state's water resources.

(b) For purposes of this chapter, "commission" means the Legislative Water Development Commission.

(2)(a) The commission membership shall include:

- (i) ~~[five-] a minimum of two~~ members of the Senate, appointed by the president of the Senate~~[, no more than four of whom may be from the same political party];~~

- 31 (ii) ~~[eight]~~ a minimum of two members of the House of Representatives, appointed  
32 by the speaker of the House of Representatives~~[, no more than six of whom may~~  
33 ~~be from the same political party]~~; and
- 34 (iii) subject to Subsections (2)(b) and (c), ~~[-]~~nonvoting members, appointed by the  
35 Legislative Management Committee, from a list recommended by the cochair of  
36 the commission described in Subsection (5).
- 37 (b) If the Legislative Management Committee chooses to not appoint an individual on  
38 the list described in Subsection (2)(a)(iii), the Legislative Management Committee  
39 may ask the cochair of the commission to submit an additional list of  
40 recommendations.
- 41 (c) The Legislative Management Committee may not appoint an individual who is not  
42 recommended by the cochair of the commission.
- 43 (3)(a) The members appointed by the Legislative Management Committee under  
44 Subsection (2)(a)(iii) shall be appointed or reappointed to a two-year term.
- 45 (b) When a vacancy occurs in the membership for any reason, the Legislative  
46 Management Committee, in consultation with the cochair of the commission, shall  
47 appoint a replacement for the unexpired term.
- 48 (4) The president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives shall, to the  
49 extent possible, appoint members under Subsections (2)(a)(i) and (ii) that represent both  
50 rural and urban areas of the state.
- 51 (5)(a) The president of the Senate shall designate a member of the Senate appointed  
52 under Subsection (2)(a)(i) as a cochair of the commission.
- 53 (b) The speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate a member of the House  
54 of Representatives appointed under Subsection (2)(a)(ii) as a cochair of the  
55 commission.
- 56 (6) What constitutes a quorum of the commission is determined in accordance with  
57 Legislative Joint Rules, Title 7, Chapter 1, Part 2, Creation and Organization of  
58 Legislative Committees, except nonvoting members of the commission described in  
59 Subsection (2)(a)(iii) may not be considered for purposes of determining a quorum.
- 60 (7)(a) Compensation and expenses of a member of the commission who is a legislator  
61 are governed by Section 36-2-2 and Legislative Joint Rules, Title 5, Legislative  
62 Compensation and Expenses.
- 63 (b) Commission members who are employees of the state shall receive no additional  
64 compensation.

65 (c) Other commission members shall receive no compensation or expenses for their  
66 service on the commission.

67 (8) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall provide staff support to  
68 the commission.

69 Section 2. **Effective Date.**

70 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.