

1 **Natural Resources Ownership**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Michael K. McKell**

House Sponsor:

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3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill addresses geothermal resources.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

- 8 ▶ clarifies the ownership of geothermal resources underlying land owned by a person; and
- 9 ▶ makes technical changes.

10 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

11 None

12 **Other Special Clauses:**

13 None

14 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

15 AMENDS:

16 **73-22-4**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 1981, Chapter 188

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

19 Section 1. Section **73-22-4** is amended to read:

20 **73-22-4 . Ownership of geothermal resource -- Lands subject to chapter.**

21 (1)(a) Ownership of a geothermal resource derives from an interest in land and not from  
22 an appropriative right to geothermal fluids.

23 (b) Notwithstanding Section 73-22-3, the owner of surface land owns the rights to the  
24 underlying geothermal resource unless the rights to the geothermal resource have  
25 been reserved by or conveyed to another person.

26 (2) This chapter shall apply to all lands in the [~~State of Utah~~] state, including federal and  
27 Indian lands to the extent allowed by law. When [~~these~~] federal or Indian lands are  
28 committed to a unit agreement involving lands subject to federal or Indian jurisdiction,  
29 the division may, with respect to the unit agreement, [~~deem~~] consider this chapter  
30 complied with if:

- 31        (a) the unit operations are regulated by the United States; and
- 32        (b) the division finds that conservation of geothermal resources and prevention of waste
- 33            are accomplished under the unit agreement.

34        Section 2. **Effective Date.**

35        This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.