

HB0533S02 compared with HB0533S01

{Omitted text} shows text that was in HB0533S01 but was omitted in HB0533S02
inserted text shows text that was not in HB0533S01 but was inserted into HB0533S02

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 **Groundwater Amendments**
2026 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Michael L. Kohler
Senate Sponsor:



2
3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill addresses groundwater.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

- 8 ▶ defines terms;
- 9 ▶ requires land use authorities to consider groundwater issues in approving a land use application or issuing a land use permit;
- 11 ▶ addresses what may be considered related to groundwater preservation; { and }
- 12 ▶ requires the Utah Geological Survey or certain irrigation companies to provide information{ - } ;

and

- 14 ▶ addresses scope related to water rights.

15 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

16 None

17 **Other Special Clauses:**

18 None

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19 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

20 ENACTS:

21 **10-20-625** , Utah Code Annotated 1953

22 **17-79-621** , Utah Code Annotated 1953

23

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

25 Section 1. Section **1** is enacted to read:

26 **10-20-625. Groundwater and land use decisions.**

26 (1) As used in this section:

27 (a) "Agricultural land" means land that, for at least six years during the 10-year period immediately
before when a land use decision is made, is land in agricultural use as defined in Section 59-2-502.

30 (b) "Groundwater preservation amounts and methods" means an amount or method used to preserve the
level of groundwater traditionally measured for the groundwater subsurface area associated with the
agricultural land.

33 (2) If agricultural land would be put to a use other than agricultural use because of a development, a
land use authority shall consider groundwater preservation amounts and methods in determining
whether to approve a land use application or issue a land use permit related to the development.

37 (3) In considering a groundwater preservation method, a land use authority may consider requiring the
use of:

39 (a) land irrigation;

40 (b) a flood basin as a recharge basin;

41 (c) an injection well; or

42 (d) another available method.

43 (4) If requested by a municipality, the Utah Geological Survey or an irrigation company that serves the
area where the agricultural land is located shall provide information to the municipality regarding
the measurement of groundwater levels for purposes of determining groundwater preservation
amounts and methods.

48 (5) A municipality or other person may not interpret this section to override, supersede, or modify:

50 (a) a water right within the state; or

51 (b) the role and authority of the state engineer.

52 Section 2. Section **2** is enacted to read:

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53 **17-79-621. Groundwater and land use decisions.**

49 (1) As used in this section:

50 (a) "Agricultural land" means land that, for at least six years during the 10-year period immediately
 before when a land use decision is made, is land in agricultural use as defined in Section 59-2-502.

53 (b) "Groundwater preservation amounts and methods" means an amount or method used to preserve the
 level of groundwater traditionally measured for the groundwater subsurface area associated with the
 agricultural land.

56 (2) If agricultural land would be put to a use other than agricultural use because of a development, a
 land use authority shall consider groundwater preservation amounts and methods in determining
 whether to approve a land use application or issue a land use permit related to the development.

60 (3) In considering a groundwater preservation method, a land use authority may consider requiring the
 use of:

62 (a) land irrigation;

63 (b) a flood basin as a recharge basin;

64 (c) an injection well; or

65 (d) another available method.

66 (4) If requested by a county, the Utah Geological Survey or an irrigation company that serves the
 area where the agricultural land is located shall provide information to the county regarding the
 measurement of groundwater levels for purposes of determining groundwater preservation amounts
 and methods.

75 (5) A county or other person may not interpret this section to override, supersede, or modify:

77 (a) a water right within the state; or

78 (b) the role and authority of the state engineer.

79 Section 3. **Effective date.**

 Effective Date.

This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.

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