

# HB0076S02 compared with HB0076

~~{Omitted text}~~ shows text that was in HB0076 but was omitted in HB0076S02

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0076 but was inserted into HB0076S02

**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            ~~{Data Center}~~ Industrial Water ~~{Policy}~~ Users Transparency Amendments  
2026 GENERAL SESSION  
STATE OF UTAH  
Chief Sponsor: Jill Koford  
Senate Sponsor: Scott D. Sandall



2  
3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5            This bill addresses reporting related to water use and ~~{data centers}~~ large industrial facilities.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7            This bill:

- 11           ▶ defines terms;
- 12           ▶ directs land use authorities to issue certain notices;
- 13           ▶ requires certain large ~~{data centers}~~ industrial facilities to communicate with water providers;
- 14           ▶ requires reporting by operators of certain ~~{data centers}~~ large industrial facilities before  
construction and annually;
- 15           ▶ addresses disclosure of the reported information;
- 16           ▶ provides for enforcement mechanisms;
- 17           ▶ addresses rulemaking; and
- 18           ▶ makes technical and conforming amendments.

17 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

18            None

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19 **Other Special Clauses:**

20 None

21 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

22 AMENDS:

23 **73-2-25** , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 369

24 ENACTS:

25 **73-5-8.3** , Utah Code Annotated 1953

26

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

28 Section 1. Section **73-2-25** is amended to read:

29 **73-2-25. State engineer enforcement powers.**

32 (1) For purposes of this section, "initial order" means one of the following issued by the state engineer:

34 (a) a notice of violation; or

35 (b) a cease and desist order.

36 (2)

(a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), the state engineer may commence an enforcement action under this section if the state engineer finds that a person:

38 (i) is diverting, impounding, or using water for which no water right has been established;

40 (ii) is diverting, impounding, or using water in violation of an existing water right;

41 (iii) violates Section 73-5-4;

42 (iv) violates Section 73-5-9;

43 (v) violates a written distribution order from the state engineer;

44 (vi) violates Section 73-3-29;

45 (vii) violates a notice or order regarding dam safety issued under Chapter 5a, Dam Safety;

47 (viii) fails to submit a report required by Section 73-3-25; ~~[{f} or]~~

48 (ix) engages in well drilling without a license required by Section 73-3-25[:]; or

49 (x) fails to submit a report required by Section 73-5-8.3.

50 (b) The state engineer may not commence an enforcement action against a person under Subsection (2)(a)(i), if the person directly captures, or stores, precipitation on the surface of, or under, a parcel owned or leased by the person, including in a catch basin, storm drain pipe, swell, or pond, if the collection or storage:

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- 54 (i) is consistent with local laws and ordinances;
- 55 (ii) does not interfere with an existing water right; and
- 56 (iii) is designed to slow, detain, or retain storm water or protect watersheds from pollution with the  
intention that the precipitation:
- 58 (A) absorbs into the ground or is released for discharge; and
- 59 (B) is not put to beneficial use.
- 60 (c) To commence an enforcement action under this section, the state engineer shall issue an initial  
order, which shall include:
- 62 (i) a description of the violation;
- 63 (ii) notice of any penalties to which a person may be subject under Section 73-2-26, except a person  
who violates Section 73-5-8.3 is subject to the penalties in Section 73-5-8.3; and
- 66 (iii) notice that the state engineer may treat each day's violation of the provisions listed in Subsection  
(2)(a) as a separate violation under Subsection 73-2-26(1)(d) or Section 73-5-8.3.
- 69 (d) The state engineer's issuance and enforcement of an initial order is exempt from Title 63G, Chapter  
4, Administrative Procedures Act.
- 71 (3) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the state engineer  
shall make rules necessary to enforce an initial order, which shall include:
- 73 (a) provisions consistent with this section and ~~[Section]~~ Sections 73-2-26 and 73-5-8.3 for enforcement  
of the initial order if a person to whom an initial order is issued fails to respond to the order or abate  
the violation;
- 76 (b) the right to a hearing, upon request by a person against whom an initial order is issued; and
- 78 (c) provisions for timely issuance of a final order after:
- 79 (i) the person to whom the initial order is issued fails to respond to the order or abate the violation; or
- 81 (ii) a hearing held under Subsection (3)(b).
- 82 (4) A person may not intervene in an enforcement action commenced under this section.
- 83 (5) After issuance of a final order under rules made ~~[pursuant to]~~ in accordance with Subsection (3)  
(c), the state engineer shall serve a copy of the final order on the person against whom the order is  
issued by:
- 86 (a) personal service under Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 5; or
- 87 (b) certified mail.
- 88 (6)

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(a) The state engineer's final order may be reviewed by trial de novo by the [district{}}] court with jurisdiction in:

90 (i) Salt Lake County; or

91 (ii) the county where the violation occurred.

92 (b) A person shall file a petition for judicial review of the state engineer's final order issued under this section within 20 days from the day on which the final order was served on that person.

95 (7) The state engineer may bring suit in a court [of competent] with jurisdiction to enforce a final order issued under this section.

97 (8) If the state engineer prevails in an action brought under Subsection (6)(b) or (7), the state may recover all court costs and a reasonable attorney fee.

97 Section 2. Section 2 is enacted to read:

98 **73-5-8.3. Reporting by large {data centers} industrial water users.**

101 (1) As used in this section:

102 (a) "Construction activity" means a physical activity necessary to construct a large {data center} industrial facility as may be defined by the division by rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

105 (b) "Division" means the Division of Water Rights.

104 (c) "Industrial business" means a private non-residential customer that uses water primarily for manufacturing, processing, resource extraction, power generation, large-scale computing or processing, or a similar industrial process.

106 (c){(d)} "Land use authority" means:

107 (i) a land use authority, as defined in Section {10-9a-103} 10-20-102, of a municipality; or

108 (ii) a land use authority, as defined in Section {17-27a-103} 17-79-102, of a county.

109 {(d)} "Large data center" means a facility that:}

110 {(i)} {houses a group of networked server computers in one physical location to disseminate, manage, and store data and information as the primary service of the facility;}

110 (e) "Large industrial facility" means the following used in connection with the operation of an industrial business with an annual water withdrawal of 75 acre feet per year or more:

113 (ii){(i)} {consists of one} a factory, mill, plant, mine, refinery, warehouse, or {more} building or collection of buildings {that in total equals or exceeds 50,000 square feet} ;

115 {(iii)} {includes facilities and infrastructure for:}

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- 116 {~~(A) {environmental control, cooling, and security required to deliver the desired service with respect~~  
to a specific facility; or ~~}~~}
- 118 {~~(B) {generation by the operator of the large data center of energy to power a specific facility~~  
delivering the desired service; ~~}~~}
- 120 {~~(iv) {is owned or leased by: }~~}
- 121 (A){~~(ii) the {operator of} land on which the {data center} facility is located; {or} and~~
- 122 {~~(B) {a person under common ownership, as defined in Section 59-7-101, of the operator of the data~~  
center facility; and ~~}~~}
- 124 {~~(v) {is located on one or more parcels of land that are owned or leased by: }~~}
- 125 (A){~~(iii) the {operator of} machinery and equipment located at or within the {data center} facility{;~~  
or ~~.~~;
- 126 {~~(B) {a person under common ownership, as defined in Section 59-7-101, of the operator of the data~~  
center facility. ~~}~~}
- 128 (e){~~(f) "Municipality" means the same as that term is defined in Section 10-1-104.~~}
- 129 (f){~~(g) "Operator of {the} a large {data center} industrial facility" means the owner or operator of~~  
{the} a large {data center} industrial facility, or other person who has comparable rights of use over  
a large {data center} industrial facility, including any person responsible for allocating space for  
external use of information technology and network telecommunications equipment within {a} the  
large {data center} industrial facility.}
- 133 (g){~~(h) "Water provider" means:~~
- 134 (i) a retail water supplier, as defined in Section 19-4-102; or
- 135 (ii) a water conservancy district formed under Title 17B, Chapter 2a, Part 10, Water Conservancy  
District Act.
- 137 (2) Before a land use authority of a municipality or county approves a land use application for a large  
{data center} industrial facility, the land use authority shall notify the following by mail or email:
- 139 (a) the division;
- 140 (b) the Division of Water Quality; and
- 141 (c) the relevant water {supplier} provider, if any.
- 142 (3) {Beginning} On or after January 1, 2027, at least {180} 90 days, but no sooner than 360 days,  
before the operator of {the} a large {data center} industrial facility begins construction activities

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related to a new large {~~data center~~} industrial facility, the operator of the large {~~data center~~} industrial facility shall:

- 145 (a) ~~{communicate with}~~ notify in writing the water provider that ~~{will provide}~~ provides water  
to the area where the large {~~data center~~} industrial facility ~~{to demonstrate from where}~~ will  
be located to detail the anticipated water consumption needs of the large {~~data center facility~~  
~~anticipates obtaining~~} industrial facility so that the water {~~used~~} provider can determine whether  
the anticipated water consumption of the large industrial facility is compatible with the location in  
which the large industrial facility is being located; and
- 148 (b) report to the division:
- 149 (i) the municipality, if applicable, and county in which the large {~~data center~~} industrial facility will be  
located;
- 150 {(ii) {~~the organization of the planned large data center as a single operator enterprise or managed data~~  
~~center, colocated facility, or a container or modular data center;~~}
- 152 (iii){(ii)} the {~~projected~~} estimated amount of water that the large {~~data center~~} industrial facility will  
{~~divert~~} withdraw annually;
- 153 {(iv) {~~how the projected amount of water used will be used;~~}
- 154 {(v) {~~the projected annual discharges by type and amount;~~}
- 155 (vi){(iii)} {~~how~~} plans to treat discharges {~~will be treated~~}, if applicable;
- 156 (vii){(iv)} whether and, if so, the estimated extent to which discharge temperature will be adjusted; and
- 158 (viii){(v)} whether and, if so, the planned extent to which the large {~~data center~~} industrial facility will  
engage in water reuse or activities to replace water used by the large {~~data center~~} industrial facility.
- 160 (4)
- (a) Subject to Subsection (4)(b), after a large {~~data center~~} industrial facility begins operation, the  
operator of the large {~~data center~~} industrial facility shall report to the division for the calendar year  
being reported on:
- 162 {(i) {~~updates, if any, to the information reported under Subsection (3);~~}
- 163 (ii){(i)} efforts made to reduce water consumption over the {~~past~~} calendar year;
- 164 {(iii) {~~a comparison of;~~}
- 165 {(A) {~~projected water use for the calendar year previous to the year being reported on;~~}
- 167 (B){(ii)} actual {~~use~~} withdrawals for the calendar year {~~being reported on; and~~} ;
- 168 {(C) {~~projected water use for the next calendar year;~~}

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- 169 (iv){(iii)} efforts to protect the environment and public from polluted water, if applicable, in the  
170 {previous} calendar year; and
- 171 (v){(iv)} other information required by the division by rule made in accordance with Title 63G,  
172 Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.
- 173 (b) {Beginning} On and after January 1, 2027, an operator of a large {data-center} industrial facility  
174 shall report to the division the information required by Subsection (4)(a):
- 163 (i) unless the state engineer requires the large industrial facility to report water data by rule made in  
164 accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, under a statute other  
165 than this section; and
- 166 (ii)
- 175 (i){(A)} annually by no later than {March} July 1; and
- 176 (ii){(B)} for the previous calendar year.
- 177 (5)
- 178 (a) The division shall publish water withdrawal data for each large industrial facility that is reported  
179 by a large industrial facility under Subsection (3)(b) or (4)(a) on the division's public website by no  
180 later than September 1 for the previous calendar year, and not in the aggregate.
- 181 (a){(b)} {The} Notwithstanding Subsection (5)(a), the division shall treat {the information reported  
182 to the division under Subsection (3) or (4)} information as proprietary information that may not  
183 be disclosed as a protected record under Subsection 63G-2-305(2) if {the operator of the large data  
184 center complies with Section 63G-2-309, except that the division shall annually disclose by no later  
185 than July 1 aggregated and anonymized data from the reports submitted under Subsection (3) or (4)  
186 for the previous calendar year} :
- 175 (i) the operator of the large industrial facility complies with Section 63G-2-309; and
- 176 (ii) the information is reported to the division under:
- 177 (A) Subsections (3)(b)(iii) through (v);
- 178 (B) Subsection (4)(a)(i) or (iii); or
- 179 (C) Subsection (4)(a)(iv), if at the time the division requires the information by rule, the division  
180 provides that the division will treat the information as a protected record in accordance with this  
181 Subsection (5)(b).
- 182 (c) The division shall annually disclose by no later than September 1 aggregated and anonymized data  
183 based on the information that is a protected record described in Subsection (5)(b):

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- 183 (i) on the division's { website } public website, organized by county; and
- 184 (ii) to each municipality or county in which is located a large { data-center } industrial facility  
required to report under { this section } Subsection (4).
- 186 (b){ (d) } Notwithstanding { Subsection (5)(a) } the other provisions of this Subsection (5), the division  
shall provide non-proprietary information from a report under Subsection (3) or (4) to the Division  
of Water Quality and the relevant water provider, if any.
- 189 (6)
- (a) The division may enforce the reporting requirements in accordance with this Subsection (6).
- 191 (b) If the operator of a large { data-center } industrial facility fails to submit a report required under  
Subsection (3) or (4) or submits an incomplete report, the division shall notify the operator of the  
large { data-center } industrial facility of the failure or incompleteness.
- 194 (c) If the operator of the large { data-center } industrial facility fails to submit a complete report after  
receipt of notice under Subsection (6)(b), the division shall impose a fine in accordance with Section  
73-2-25 of up to { \$10,000 } \$100 for each day the operator of the large { data-center } industrial  
facility fails to comply with this Subsection (6).
- 198 (d) The division shall deposit money collected under this Subsection (6) into the General Fund.

202 Section 3. **Effective date.**

Effective Date.

This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.

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