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Water Modifications
 2026 GENERAL SESSION
 STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Bridger Bolinder
 Senate Sponsor:

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LONG TITLE

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General Description:

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This bill addresses regulation of the provision of water.

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Highlighted Provisions:

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This bill:

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- exempts a water fee from certain rate setting requirements for municipalities and public

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water systems;

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- defines terms;

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- makes legislative findings;

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- directs modification of contracts that do not comply with metering and usage-based

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billing requirements;

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- requires certain notices to secondary water suppliers regarding transfer of real property;

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- allows for the imposition of penalties;

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- requires the collection of certain local contribution amounts for water infrastructure as a

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condition of receiving state money;

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- requires local entities to collect certain local contribution amounts for drinking water and

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wastewater by a date certain;

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- addresses the exemption of secondary water from certain fees;

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- modifies a reporting requirement; and

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- makes technical and conforming changes.

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Money Appropriated in this Bill:

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None

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Other Special Clauses:

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This bill provides a special effective date.

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Utah Code Sections Affected:

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AMENDS:

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10-8-22 (Effective 05/06/26), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 102

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73-10-32.5 (Effective 05/06/26), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 102

31 **73-10-34 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 102

32 **73-10g-607 (Effective 07/01/26)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 124

33 ENACTS:

34 **73-10g-801 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

35 **73-10g-802 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

36 **73-10g-803 (Effective 05/06/26)**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

39 Section 1. Section **10-8-22** is amended to read:

40 **10-8-22 (Effective 05/06/26). Water rates.**

41 (1) As used in this section:

- 42 (a) "Designated water service area" means the area defined by a municipality in
 43 accordance with the Utah Constitution, Article XI, Section 6, Subsection (1)(c).
 44 (b) "Large municipal drinking water system" means a municipally owned and operated
 45 drinking water system serving a population of 10,000 or more.
 46 (c) "Retail customer" means an end user:
 47 (i) who receives culinary water directly from a municipality's waterworks system; and
 48 (ii) whom the municipality described in Subsection (1)(c)(i) bills for water service.

49 (2) A municipality shall fix the rates to be paid for the use of water furnished by the
 50 municipality.

51 (3) The setting of municipal water rates is a legislative act.

52 (4) Within the municipality's designated water service area, a municipality shall:

- 53 (a) establish, by ordinance, reasonable rates for the services provided to the
 54 municipality's retail customers;
 55 (b) use the same method of providing notice to all retail customers of proposed rate
 56 changes; and
 57 (c) allow all retail customers the same opportunity to appear and participate in a public
 58 meeting addressing water rates.

59 (5)(a) A municipality may establish different rates for different classifications of retail
 60 customers within the municipality's designated water service area, if the rates and
 61 classifications have a reasonable basis.

62 (b) A reasonable basis for charging different rates for different classifications may
 63 include, among other things, a situation in which:

64 (i) there is a difference in the cost of providing service to a particular classification;

- 65 (ii) one classification bears more risk in relation to a system operation or obligation;
- 66 (iii) retail customers in one classification invested or contributed to acquire a water
- 67 source or supply or build or maintain a system differently than retail customers in
- 68 another classification;
- 69 (iv) the needs or conditions of one classification:
- 70 (A) are distinguishable from the needs or conditions of another classification; and
- 71 (B) based on economic, public policy, or other identifiable elements, support a
- 72 different rate;
- 73 (v) there is a differential between the classifications based on a cost of service
- 74 standard or a generally accepted rate setting method, including a standard or
- 75 method the American Water Works Association establishes; or
- 76 (vi) water conservation is used as an element in determining the rate charged for a
- 77 block unit of water as provided in Section 73-10-32.5.
- 78 (c) An adjustment based solely on the fact that a particular classification of retail
- 79 customers is located either inside or outside of the municipality's corporate boundary
- 80 is not a reasonable basis.
- 81 (d) Beginning July 1, 2026, Subsection (5)(b) does not apply to a rate or rate increase
- 82 that is for the amount needed to pay a fee imposed on a municipality under Section
- 83 73-10g-607.
- 84 (6)(a) If more than 10% of the retail customers within a large municipal drinking water
- 85 system's designated water service area are located outside of the municipality's
- 86 corporate boundary, the municipality shall:
- 87 (i) post on the municipality's website the rates assessed to retail customers within the
- 88 designated water service area; and
- 89 (ii) establish an advisory board to make recommendations to the municipal legislative
- 90 body regarding water rates, capital projects, and other water service standards.
- 91 (b) In establishing an advisory board described in Subsection (6)(a)(ii), a municipality
- 92 shall:
- 93 (i) if more than 10% but no more than 30% of the municipality's retail customers
- 94 receive service outside the municipality's municipal boundary, ensure that at least
- 95 20% of the advisory board's members represent the municipality's retail customers
- 96 receiving service outside the municipality's municipal boundary;
- 97 (ii) if more than 30% of the municipality's retail customers receive service outside of
- 98 the municipality's municipal boundary, ensure that at least 40% of the advisory

99 board's members represent the municipality's retail customers receiving service
100 outside of the municipality's municipal boundary; and

101 (iii) in appointing board members who represent retail customers receiving service
102 outside of the municipality's municipal boundary, as required in Subsections
103 (6)(b)(i) and (ii), solicit recommendations from each municipality and county
104 outside of the municipality's municipal boundary whose residents are retail
105 customers within the municipality's designated water service area.

106 (7) A municipality that supplies water outside of the municipality's designated water service
107 area shall supply the water only by contract and shall include in the contract the terms
108 and conditions under which the contract can be terminated.

109 (8) A municipality shall:

- 110 (a) notify the director of the Division of Drinking Water of a contract the municipality
111 enters into with a person outside of the municipality's designated water service area,
112 including the name and contact information of the person named in each contract; and
113 (b) each year, provide to the director of the Division of Drinking Water any
114 supplementing or new information regarding a contract described in Subsection (8)(a),
115 including whether there is no new information to provide at that time.

116 Section 2. Section **73-10-32.5** is amended to read:

117 **73-10-32.5 (Effective 05/06/26). Culinary water pricing structure.**

118 (1) As used in this section:

- 119 (a) "Public water system" means the same as that term is defined in Section 19-4-102.
120 (b) "Retail water supplier" means the same as that term is defined in Section 19-4-102.
121 (c)(i) "Water conservation effort" means a program that is designed to incentivize,
122 encourage, or result in reduced water usage or more efficient use of water.
123 (ii) "Water conservation effort" includes the costs associated with designing,
124 implementing, and operating a program described in Subsection (1)(c)(i).
125 (d) "Wholesale water supplier" means the same as that term is defined in Section
126 19-4-102.

127 (2)(a) A retail water supplier shall:

- 128 [~~(a)~~] (i) consider water conservation, including at least one water conservation effort,
129 in setting water rates with the goal of encouraging efficient water use and
130 eliminating wasteful or excessive water use;
131 [~~(b)~~] (ii) establish a culinary water rate structure that:
132 [~~(i)~~] (A) incorporates increasing block units of water used;

- 133 ~~[(ii)]~~ (B) provides for an increase in the rate charged for additional block units of
 134 water used as usage increases from one block unit to the next;
- 135 ~~[(iii)]~~ (C) by July 1, 2027, includes one or more water conservation efforts as an
 136 element in determining the rate charged for at least the highest usage block unit
 137 of water for a customer classification that primarily serves residential
 138 customers; and
- 139 ~~[(iv)]~~ (D) is based on a generally accepted rate setting method, including a
 140 standard or method established by the American Water Works Association;
- 141 ~~[(e)]~~ (iii) provide in customer billing notices, or in a notice that is distributed to
 142 customers at least annually, block unit rates and the customer's billing cycle;
- 143 ~~[(f)]~~ (iv) include individual customer water usage in customer billing notices; and
- 144 ~~[(e)]~~ (v) consider urban farming that improves food security, reduces pollution, and
 145 creates green spaces in setting rates.
- 146 (b) Beginning July 1, 2026, Subsection (2)(a)(ii)(D) does not apply to a rate or rate
 147 increase that is for the amount needed to pay a fee imposed on a public water system
 148 under Section 73-10g-607.
- 149 (3) This section does not prohibit:
- 150 (a) a public water system with 500 or fewer service connections from taking an action or
 151 adopting a culinary water rate structure described in Subsection (2); or
- 152 (b) a retail water supplier from including water conservation and a water conservation
 153 effort as an element in setting rates for customer classifications that do not primarily
 154 serve residential customers.
- 155 (4) A public water system:
- 156 (a) is not required to establish or show that the portion of the rate designed to encourage
 157 water conservation, and fund a water conservation effort, within the highest usage
 158 block unit of water for a customer classification:
- 159 (i) is based on the public water system's actual cost of service;
- 160 (ii) has a reasonable basis when compared to rates the public water system charges:
- 161 (A) for other block units of water within a customer classification; or
- 162 (B) for block units of water in other customer classifications; or
- 163 (iii) is limited to a reasonable profit or return on investment;
- 164 (b) may include in a customer billing a fee, surcharge, penalty, or other charge that is
 165 collected pursuant to an agreement between the public water system and the
 166 wholesale water supplier from whom the public water system purchases water; and

167 (c) if the public water system is a for-profit entity, may not use revenue from the highest
 168 usage block unit of water designed to encourage water conservation to pay profits or
 169 dividends to the public water system's investors or owners.

170 (5) The use of revenue collected from the portion of any block unit of water designed to
 171 encourage water conservation may include funding water conservation efforts that are
 172 shared with or administered by another public water system or a wholesale water
 173 supplier.

174 (6) The adoption and implementation of that portion of a public water system's water rate
 175 that includes water conservation as an element in determining the rate charged for the
 176 highest usage block unit of water, as provided in this section, is conclusively presumed:

177 (a) to be reasonable; and

178 (b) to reflect the reasonable estimated cost of delivering the service for which the fee
 179 was paid.

180 Section 3. Section **73-10-34** is amended to read:

181 **73-10-34 (Effective 05/06/26). Secondary water metering -- Loans and grants --**
 182 **Contract terms.**

183 (1) As used in this section:

184 (a) "Agriculture use" means water used on land assessed under Title 59, Chapter 2, Part 5,
 185 Farmland Assessment Act.

186 (b)(i) "Commercial user" means a secondary water user that is a place of business.

187 (ii) "Commercial user" does not include a multi-family residence, an agricultural
 188 user, or a customer that falls within the industrial or institutional classification.

189 (c) "Critical area" means an area:

190 (i) serviced by one of the four largest water conservancy districts, as defined in
 191 Section 17B-1-102, measured by operating budgets; or

192 (ii) within the Great Salt Lake basin, which includes:

193 (A) the surveyed meander line of the Great Salt Lake;

194 (B) the drainage areas of the Bear River or the Bear River's tributaries;

195 (C) the drainage areas of Bear Lake or Bear Lake's tributaries;

196 (D) the drainage areas of the Weber River or the Weber River's tributaries;

197 (E) the drainage areas of the Jordan River or the Jordan River's tributaries;

198 (F) the drainage areas of Utah Lake or Utah Lake's tributaries;

199 (G) other water drainages lying between the Bear River and the Jordan River that
 200 are tributary to the Great Salt Lake and not included in the drainage areas

- 201 described in Subsections (1)(c)(ii)(B) through (F); and
202 (H) the drainage area of Tooele Valley.
- 203 (d) "Full metering" means that use of secondary water is accurately metered by a meter
204 that is installed and maintained on every secondary water connection of a secondary
205 water supplier.
- 206 (e)(i) "Industrial user" means a secondary water user that manufactures or produces
207 materials.
208 (ii) "Industrial user" includes a manufacturing plant, an oil and gas producer, and a
209 mining company.
- 210 (f)(i) "Institutional user" means a secondary water user that is dedicated to public
211 service, regardless of ownership.
212 (ii) "Institutional user" includes a school, church, hospital, park, golf course, and
213 government facility.
- 214 (g) "Power generation use" means water used in the production of energy, such as use in
215 an electric generation facility, natural gas refinery, or coal processing plant.
- 216 (h)(i) "Residential user" means a secondary water user in a residence.
217 (ii) "Residential user" includes a single-family or multi-family home, apartment,
218 duplex, twin home, condominium, or planned community.
- 219 (i) "Secondary water" means water that is:
220 (i) not culinary or water used on land assessed under Title 59, Chapter 2, Part 5,
221 Farmland Assessment Act; and
222 (ii) delivered to and used by an end user for the irrigation of landscaping or a garden.
- 223 (j) "Secondary water connection" means the location at which the water leaves the
224 secondary water supplier's pipeline and enters into the remainder of the pipes that are
225 owned by another person to supply water to an end user.
- 226 (k) "Secondary water supplier" means an entity that supplies pressurized secondary
227 water.
- 228 (l) "Small secondary water retail supplier" means an entity that:
229 (i) supplies pressurized secondary water only to the end user of the secondary water;
230 and
231 (ii)(A) is a city or town; or
232 (B) supplies 5,000 or fewer secondary water connections.
- 233 (m) "Title agent" means a title insurance producer licensed as an organization under
234 Title 31A, Chapter 23a, Part 2, Producers and Consultants.

- 235 (2)(a)(i) A secondary water supplier that supplies secondary water within a county of
236 the first or second class and begins design work for new service on or after April
237 1, 2020, to a commercial, industrial, institutional, or residential user shall meter
238 the use of pressurized secondary water by the users receiving that new service.
- 239 (ii) A secondary water supplier that supplies secondary water within a county of the
240 third, fourth, fifth, or sixth class and begins design work for new service on or
241 after May 4, 2022, to a commercial, industrial, institutional, or residential user
242 shall meter the use of pressurized secondary water by the users receiving that new
243 service.
- 244 (b) By no later than January 1, 2030, a secondary water supplier shall install and
245 maintain a meter of the use of pressurized secondary water by each user receiving
246 secondary water service from the secondary water supplier.
- 247 (c) Beginning January 1, 2022, a secondary water supplier shall establish a meter
248 installation reserve for metering installation and replacement projects.
- 249 (d) A secondary water supplier, including a small secondary water retail supplier, may
250 not raise the rates charged for secondary water:
- 251 (i) by more than 10% in a calendar year for costs associated with metering secondary
252 water unless the rise in rates is necessary because the secondary water supplier
253 experiences a catastrophic failure or other similar event; or
- 254 (ii) unless, before raising the rates on the end user, the entity charging the end user
255 provides a statement explaining the basis for why the needs of the secondary
256 water supplier required an increase in rates.
- 257 (e)(i) A secondary water supplier that provides pressurized secondary water to a
258 commercial, industrial, institutional, or residential user shall develop a plan, or if
259 the secondary water supplier previously filed a similar plan, update the plan for
260 metering the use of the pressurized water.
- 261 (ii) The plan required by this Subsection (2)(e) shall be filed or updated with the
262 Division of Water Resources by no later than December 31, 2025, and address the
263 process the secondary water supplier will follow to implement metering, including:
264 (A) the costs of full metering by the secondary water supplier;
265 (B) how long it would take the secondary water supplier to complete full
266 metering, including an anticipated beginning date and completion date, except
267 a secondary water supplier shall achieve full metering by no later than January
268 1, 2030; and

- 269 (C) how the secondary water supplier will finance metering.
- 270 (3) A secondary water supplier shall on or before March 31 of each year, report to the
271 Division of Water Rights:
- 272 (a) for commercial, industrial, institutional, and residential users whose pressurized
273 secondary water use is metered, the number of acre feet of pressurized secondary
274 water the secondary water supplier supplied to the commercial, industrial,
275 institutional, and residential users during the preceding 12-month period;
- 276 (b) the number of secondary water meters within the secondary water supplier's service
277 boundary;
- 278 (c) a description of the secondary water supplier's service boundary;
- 279 (d) the number of secondary water connections in each of the following categories
280 through which the secondary water supplier supplies pressurized secondary water:
- 281 (i) commercial;
- 282 (ii) industrial;
- 283 (iii) institutional; and
- 284 (iv) residential;
- 285 (e) the total volume of water that the secondary water supplier receives from the
286 secondary water supplier's sources; and
- 287 (f) the dates of service during the preceding 12-month period in which the secondary
288 water supplier supplied pressurized secondary water.
- 289 (4)(a) Beginning July 1, 2019, the Board of Water Resources may make up to
290 \$10,000,000 in low-interest loans available each year:
- 291 (i) from the Water Resources Conservation and Development Fund, created in
292 Section 73-10-24; and
- 293 (ii) for financing the cost of secondary water metering.
- 294 (b) The Division of Water Resources and the Board of Water Resources shall make rules
295 in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,
296 establishing the criteria and process for receiving a loan described in this Subsection
297 (4), except the rules may not include prepayment penalties.
- 298 (5)(a) Beginning July 1, 2021, subject to appropriation, the Division of Water Resources
299 may make matching grants each year for financing the cost of secondary water
300 metering for a commercial, industrial, institutional, or residential user by a small
301 secondary water retail supplier that:
- 302 (i) is not for new service described in Subsection (2)(a); and

- 303 (ii) matches the amount of the grant.
- 304 (b) For purposes of issuing grants under this section, the division shall prioritize the
305 small secondary water retail suppliers that can demonstrate the greatest need or
306 greatest inability to pay the entire cost of installing secondary water meters.
- 307 (c) The amount of a grant under this Subsection (5) may not:
- 308 (i) exceed 50% of the small secondary water retail supplier's cost of installing
309 secondary water meters; or
- 310 (ii) supplant federal, state, or local money previously allocated to pay the small
311 secondary water retail supplier's cost of installing secondary water meters.
- 312 (d) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
313 Board of Water Resources shall make rules establishing:
- 314 (i) the procedure for applying for a grant under this Subsection (5); and
315 (ii) how a small secondary water retail supplier can establish that the small secondary
316 water retail supplier meets the eligibility requirements of this Subsection (5).
- 317 (6) Nothing in this section affects a water right holder's obligation to measure and report
318 water usage as described in Sections 73-5-4 and 73-5-8.
- 319 (7) If a secondary water supplier fails to comply with Subsection (2)(b), the secondary
320 water supplier:
- 321 (a) beginning January 1, 2030, may not receive state money for water related purposes
322 until the secondary water supplier completes full metering; and
- 323 (b) is subject to an enforcement action of the state engineer in accordance with
324 Subsection (8).
- 325 (8)(a)(i) The state engineer shall commence an enforcement action under this
326 Subsection (8) if the state engineer receives a referral from the director of the
327 Division of Water Resources.
- 328 (ii) The director of the Division of Water Resources shall submit a referral to the state
329 engineer if the director:
- 330 (A) finds that a secondary water supplier fails to fully meter secondary water as
331 required by this section; and
- 332 (B) determines an enforcement action is necessary to conserve or protect a water
333 resource in the state.
- 334 (b) To commence an enforcement action under this Subsection (8), the state engineer
335 shall issue a notice of violation that includes notice of the administrative fine to
336 which a secondary water supplier is subject.

- 337 (c) The state engineer's issuance and enforcement of a notice of violation is exempt from
338 Title 63G, Chapter 4, Administrative Procedures Act.
- 339 (d) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
340 state engineer shall make rules necessary to enforce a notice of violation, that
341 includes:
- 342 (i) provisions consistent with this Subsection (8) for enforcement of the notice if a
343 secondary water supplier to whom a notice is issued fails to respond to the notice
344 or abate the violation;
- 345 (ii) the right to a hearing, upon request by a secondary water supplier against whom
346 the notice is issued; and
- 347 (iii) provisions for timely issuance of a final order after the secondary water supplier
348 to whom the notice is issued fails to respond to the notice or abate the violation, or
349 after a hearing held under Subsection (8)(d)(ii).
- 350 (e) A person may not intervene in an enforcement action commenced under this section.
- 351 (f) After issuance of a final order under rules made pursuant to Subsection (8)(d), the
352 state engineer shall serve a copy of the final order on the secondary water supplier
353 against whom the order is issued by:
- 354 (i) personal service under Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 5; or
355 (ii) certified mail.
- 356 (g)(i) The state engineer's final order may be reviewed by trial de novo by the court
357 with jurisdiction in Salt Lake County or the county where the violation occurred.
- 358 (ii) A secondary water supplier shall file a petition for judicial review of the state
359 engineer's final order issued under this section within 20 days from the day on
360 which the final order was served on the secondary water supplier.
- 361 (h) The state engineer may bring suit in a court of competent jurisdiction to enforce a
362 final order issued under this Subsection (8).
- 363 (i) If the state engineer prevails in an action brought under Subsection (8)(g) or (h), the
364 state may recover court costs and a reasonable attorney fee.
- 365 (j) As part of a final order issued under this Subsection (8), the state engineer shall order
366 that a secondary water supplier to whom an order is issued pay an administrative fine
367 equal to:
- 368 (i) \$10 for each non-metered secondary water connection of the secondary water
369 supplier for failure to comply with full metering by January 1, 2030;
- 370 (ii) \$20 for each non-metered secondary water connection of the secondary water

- 371 supplier for failure to comply with full metering by January 1, 2031;
- 372 (iii) \$30 for each non-metered secondary water connection of the secondary water
373 supplier for failure to comply with full metering by January 1, 2032;
- 374 (iv) \$40 for each non-metered secondary water connection of the secondary water
375 supplier for failure to comply with full metering by January 1, 2033; and
- 376 (v) \$50 for each non-metered secondary water connection of the secondary water
377 supplier for failure to comply with full metering by January 1, 2034, and for each
378 subsequent year the secondary water supplier fails to comply with full metering.
- 379 (k) Money collected under this Subsection (8) shall be deposited into the Water
380 Resources Conservation and Development Fund, created in Section 73-10-24.
- 381 (9) A secondary water supplier located within a county of the fifth or sixth class is exempt
382 from Subsections (2)(a), (2)(b), (2)(c), (2)(e), (7), and (8) if:
- 383 (a) the owner or operator of the secondary water supplier seeks an exemption under this
384 Subsection (9) by establishing with the Division of Water Resources that the cost of
385 purchasing, installing, and upgrading systems to accept meters exceeds 25% of the
386 total operating budget of the owner or operator of the secondary water supplier;
- 387 (b) the secondary water supplier agrees to not add a new secondary water connection to
388 the secondary water supplier's system on or after May 4, 2022;
- 389 (c) within six months of when the secondary water supplier seeks an exemption under
390 Subsection (9)(a), the secondary water supplier provides to the Division of Water
391 Resources a plan for conservation within the secondary water supplier's service area
392 that does not require metering;
- 393 (d) the secondary water supplier annually reports to the Division of Water Resources on
394 the results of the plan described in Subsection (9)(c); and
- 395 (e) the secondary water supplier submits to evaluations by the Division of Water
396 Resources of the effectiveness of the plan described in Subsection (9)(c).
- 397 (10) A secondary water supplier is exempt from Subsections (2)(a), (2)(b), (2)(c), (2)(e),
398 (7), and (8) to the extent that the secondary water supplier:
- 399 (a) is unable to obtain a meter that a meter manufacturer will warranty because of the
400 water quality within a specific location served by the secondary water supplier;
- 401 (b) submits reasonable proof to the Division of Water Resources that the secondary
402 water supplier is unable to obtain a meter as described in Subsection (10)(a);
- 403 (c) within six months of when the secondary water supplier submits reasonable proof
404 under Subsection (10)(b), provides to the Division of Water Resources a plan for

- 405 conservation within the secondary water supplier's service area that does not require
406 metering;
- 407 (d) annually reports to the Division of Water Resources on the results of the plan
408 described in Subsection (10)(c); and
- 409 (e) submits to evaluations by the Division of Water Resources of the effectiveness of the
410 plan described in Subsection (10)(c).
- 411 (11) A secondary water supplier that is located within a critical management area that is
412 subject to a groundwater management plan adopted or amended under Section 73-5-15
413 on or after May 1, 2006, is exempt from Subsections (2)(a), (2)(b), (2)(c), (2)(e), (7), and
414 (8).
- 415 (12) If a secondary water supplier is required to have a water conservation plan under
416 Section 73-10-32, that water conservation plan satisfies the requirements of Subsection
417 (9)(c) or (10)(c).
- 418 (13)(a) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section and unless exempt under
419 Subsection (9), (10), or (11), to comply with this section, a secondary water supplier
420 is not required to meter every secondary water connection of the secondary water
421 supplier's system, but shall meter at strategic points of the system as approved by the
422 state engineer under this Subsection (13) if:
- 423 (i) the system has no or minimal storage and relies primarily on stream flow;
- 424 (ii)(A) the majority of secondary water users on the system are associated with
425 agriculture use or power generation use; and
- 426 (B) less than 50% of the secondary water is used by residential secondary water
427 users; or
- 428 (iii) the system has a mix of pressurized lines and open ditches and:
- 429 (A) 1,000 or fewer users if any part of the system is within a critical area; or
430 (B) 2,500 or fewer users for a system not described in Subsection (13)(a)(iii)(A).
- 431 (b)(i) A secondary water supplier may obtain the approval by the state engineer of
432 strategic points where metering is to occur as required under this Subsection (13)
433 by filing an application with the state engineer in the form established by the state
434 engineer.
- 435 (ii) The state engineer may by rule, made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3,
436 Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, establish procedures for approving strategic
437 points for metering under this Subsection (13).
- 438 (14)(a) A contract entered into or renewed on or after July 1, 2025, between a secondary

- 439 water supplier and an end user shall allow for billing by tiered conservation rates.
- 440 (b) Except as provided in Subsection (14)(f), by no later than July 1, 2030, regardless of
441 whether the secondary water supplier is fully metered or has modified existing
442 contracts with end users, a secondary water supplier shall begin billing an end user
443 using a tiered conservation rate that considers:
- 444 (i) revenue stability;
 - 445 (ii) water conservation; and
 - 446 (iii) cost of service.
- 447 (c) A secondary water supplier may comply with Subsection (14)(b) by entering into a
448 contract with a third-party, including the public water system that serves an end user
449 of the secondary water supplier, to bill the end user according to end user's usage of
450 secondary water and the secondary water supplier's tiered conservation rate.
- 451 (d) By no later than April 1, 2030, a secondary water supplier shall provide an
452 educational component for end users as determined by the division by rule made in
453 accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, either
454 on a monthly statement or by an end user specific Internet portal that provides
455 information on the end user's usage more frequently than monthly.
- 456 (e) A public water system:
- 457 (i) shall enter into a contract with a secondary water supplier described in Subsection
458 (14)(c) upon request from the secondary water supplier if the secondary water
459 supplier agrees to provide water use and other data necessary for accurate billing
460 in a file format compatible with the public water supplier's billing system;
 - 461 (ii) may collect the costs associated with billing on behalf of a secondary water
462 supplier under this section from the secondary water end users, including
463 reasonable administrative and overhead expenses; and
 - 464 (iii) shall, as the public water supplier and the secondary water supplier find
465 necessary or convenient, exchange with the secondary water supplier, for the
466 purpose of maintaining accurate records, relevant information with regard to an
467 end user of the secondary water supplier, such as:
 - 468 (A) a billing address;
 - 469 (B) an address where the secondary water is delivered;
 - 470 (C) a parcel identification number; and
 - 471 (D) ownership information.
- 472 (f)(i) A secondary water supplier is not required to bill an end user a tiered

- 473 conservation rate if the secondary water supplier is:
- 474 (A) exempt from metering under Subsection (9), (10), or (11); or
- 475 (B) authorized to meter at strategic points of the system under Subsection (13).
- 476 (ii) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, on or after July 1, 2030, a
- 477 secondary water supplier with a tiered conservation rate under this Subsection (14)
- 478 shall charge an end user at the lowest rate of the tiered conservation rate if the end
- 479 user is using a portion of the water to grow food, including growing a garden, fruit
- 480 trees, or pasture for grazing.
- 481 (g)(i) If a secondary water supplier violates this Subsection (14) on or after April 1,
- 482 2030, the secondary water supplier:
- 483 (A) may not receive state money for water related purposes until the secondary
- 484 water supplier complies with this Subsection (14); and
- 485 (B) is subject to an enforcement action of the state engineer in accordance with
- 486 this Subsection (14)(g).
- 487 (ii) The state engineer shall commence an enforcement action under this Subsection
- 488 (14)(g) if the state engineer receives a referral from the director of the Division of
- 489 Water Resources.
- 490 (iii) The director of the Division of Water Resources shall submit a referral to the
- 491 state engineer if the director:
- 492 (A) finds that a secondary water supplier fails to comply with this Subsection (14);
- 493 and
- 494 (B) determines an enforcement action is necessary to conserve or protect a water
- 495 resource in the state.
- 496 (iv) To commence an enforcement action under this Subsection (14)(g), the state
- 497 engineer shall issue a notice of violation that includes notice of the administrative
- 498 fine described in Subsection (14)(g)(xiii) to which a secondary water supplier is
- 499 subject.
- 500 (v) The state engineer's issuance and enforcement of a notice of violation is exempt
- 501 from Title 63G, Chapter 4, Administrative Procedures Act.
- 502 (vi) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,
- 503 the state engineer shall make rules necessary to enforce a notice of violation, that
- 504 includes:
- 505 (A) provisions consistent with this Subsection (14)(g) for enforcement of the
- 506 notice if a secondary water supplier to whom a notice is issued fails to respond

- 507 to the notice or abate the violation;
- 508 (B) the right to a hearing, upon request by a secondary water supplier against
- 509 whom the notice is issued; and
- 510 (C) provisions for timely issuance of a final order after the secondary water
- 511 supplier to whom the notice is issued fails to respond to the notice or abate the
- 512 violation, or after a hearing held under Subsection (14)(g)(vi)(B).
- 513 (vii) A person may not intervene in an enforcement action commenced under this
- 514 Subsection (14)(g).
- 515 (viii) After issuance of a final order under rules made pursuant to Subsection
- 516 (14)(g)(vi), the state engineer shall serve a copy of the final order on the
- 517 secondary water supplier against whom the order is issued by:
- 518 (A) personal service under Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 5; or
- 519 (B) certified mail.
- 520 (ix) The state engineer's final order may be reviewed by trial de novo by a court with
- 521 jurisdiction in Salt Lake County or the county where the violation occurred.
- 522 (x) A secondary water supplier shall file a petition for judicial review of the state
- 523 engineer's final order issued under this Subsection (14)(g) within 20 days from the
- 524 day on which the final order was served on the secondary water supplier.
- 525 (xi) The state engineer may bring suit in a court to enforce a final order issued under
- 526 this Subsection (14)(g).
- 527 (xii) If the state engineer prevails in an action brought under Subsection (14)(g)(x) or
- 528 (xi), the state may recover court costs and reasonable attorney fees.
- 529 (xiii) The administrative fine imposed under this section shall be an amount not to
- 530 exceed the sum of any money received by the secondary water supplier under this
- 531 section or Section 73-10-34.5 to fund costs related to metering.
- 532 (xiv) Money collected under this Subsection (14) shall be deposited into the Water
- 533 Resources Conservation and Development Fund, created in Section 73-10-24.
- 534 (15)(a) The Legislature finds that requiring a secondary water supplier to modify a
- 535 contract to allow for compliance with metering and usage-based billing requirements
- 536 under this chapter is in the public interest and reasonably necessary to achieve needed
- 537 water conservation.
- 538 (b) If necessary to comply with the usage-based billing requirements under this chapter,
- 539 a secondary water supplier shall modify a contract that:
- 540 (i) existed before July 1, 2025; and

- 541 (ii) does not comply with metering and usage-based billing requirements under this
542 chapter.
- 543 (c) Upon modification of a contract described in Subsection (15)(b), a secondary water
544 supplier:
- 545 (i) shall execute contract terms that:
- 546 (A) authorize metering and volumetric billing; and
- 547 (B) apply a secondary water rate, which includes a tiered conservation rate set in
548 accordance with Subsection (14); and
- 549 (ii) may execute contract terms that:
- 550 (A) bind a real property owner to delivery obligations; and
- 551 (B) mandate a subsequent real property owner to execute a successor contract
552 upon transfer of the real property.
- 553 (d) A covenant ensuring compliance with this Subsection (15) runs with the real
554 property and is enforceable against a successor in interest.
- 555 (16)(a)(i) To facilitate the execution of a successor contract described in Subsection
556 (15)(c) upon the transfer of real property as described in this Subsection (16)(a), a
557 title agent involved in a real property transaction that affects secondary water shall
558 notify the applicable secondary water supplier of a change in ownership of
559 property receiving secondary water services within 10 business days of the closing
560 of the real property transaction.
- 561 (ii) If a title agent is not involved in a transaction affecting secondary water, the seller
562 is responsible for making the notification described in Subsection (16)(a)(i) in
563 accordance with this Subsection (16).
- 564 (b) A notification described in Subsection (16)(a) shall include:
- 565 (i) the new owner's name and contact information;
- 566 (ii) the effective date of the transfer; and
- 567 (iii) relevant parcel identification information.
- 568 (c) A secondary water supplier shall maintain a publicly accessible database of serviced
569 real properties to enable a title agent described in Subsection (16)(a) to identify the
570 applicable secondary water supplier during a real property transaction.
- 571 (d) The Division of Water Resources may impose an administrative penalty not to
572 exceed \$500 per violation for the failure to provide notification under Subsection
573 (16)(a).
- 574 Section 4. Section **73-10g-607** is amended to read:

609 **73-10g-802 (Effective 05/06/26). Local contribution amount requirements to**
610 **receive state money.**

611 (1)(a) Beginning January 1, 2027, to qualify for receipt of state money for water
612 infrastructure or water development, a public water system shall establish that as of
613 the day on which the public water system receives the state money the public water
614 system collects an amount that equals or exceeds the local contribution amount.

615 (b) The state council shall by no later than July 1, 2026, determine for each public water
616 system a local contribution amount that is calculated by:

617 (i) determining the median adjusted gross income for the service area within which
618 the public water system provides services;

619 (ii) multiplying the number determined under Subsection (1)(b)(i) by:

620 (A) 1.5% if the public water system bills a customer for drinking water

621 independent of services provided by a wastewater service provider; or

622 (B) 3% if the public water system bills a customer for both drinking water and
623 services provided by a wastewater service provider; and

624 (iii) multiplying the number determined under Subsection (1)(b)(ii) by the number of
625 connections of the public water system.

626 (2)(a) Beginning January 1, 2027, to qualify for receipt of state money for water

627 infrastructure or water development, a wastewater service provider shall establish

628 that as of the day on which the wastewater service provider receives the state money

629 the wastewater service provider collects, either directly or through a public water
630 system, an amount that equals or exceeds the local contribution amount.

631 (b) The state council shall by no later than July 1, 2026, determine for each wastewater
632 service provider a local contribution amount that is calculated by:

633 (i) determining the median adjusted gross income for the service area within which
634 the wastewater service provider provides services;

635 (ii) multiplying the number determined under Subsection (2)(b)(i) by:

636 (A) 1.5% if the wastewater service provider bills customers independent of a
637 public water system; and

638 (B) 3% if the waste service provider bills through a public water system that bills
639 for drinking water and services provided by a wastewater service provider; and

640 (iii) multiplying the number determined under Subsection (2)(b)(ii) by the number of
641 connections of the wastewater service provider.

642 (3) At least every five years the state council shall:

- 643 (a) update the local contribution amount for a public water system or wastewater service
644 provider; and
- 645 (b) recommend to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim
646 Committee whether the Legislature should adjust the multiplier under Subsection
647 (1)(b)(ii) or (2)(b)(ii) to reflect the financial capability of a household to pay
648 expenses for drinking water or services of a wastewater service provider, inclusive of
649 applicable property taxes, without undue hardship.
- 650 (4) The state council may make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
651 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to establish procedures for calculating a local
652 contribution amount.

653 Section 7. Section **73-10g-803** is enacted to read:

654 **73-10g-803 (Effective 05/06/26). Local contribution amount general**
655 **requirements.**

- 656 (1) Notwithstanding whether a public water system or wastewater service provider seeks to
657 qualify for receipt of state money under Section 73-10g-802, beginning on January 1,
658 2031:
- 659 (a) the public water system shall collect from the public water system's customers an
660 amount that equals or exceeds the local contribution amount for the public water
661 system; and
- 662 (b) the wastewater service provider, either directly or through a public water system,
663 shall collect from the wastewater service provider's customers an amount that equals
664 or exceeds the local contribution amount for the wastewater service provider.
- 665 (2) For the purpose of complying with this section, before January 1, 2031, a public water
666 system or wastewater service provider shall plan for and implement regular incremental
667 increases to rates of the public water system or wastewater service provider.

668 Section 8. **Effective Date.**

- 669 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), this bill takes effect May 6, 2026.
- 670 (2) The actions affecting Section 73-10g-607 (Effective 07/01/26) take effect on July 1,
671 2026.