

WATER DISTRIBUTION EFFICIENCY

2022 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Melissa G. Ballard

Senate Sponsor: Jani Iwamoto

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill addresses efficiency in water distribution systems.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ enacts the Water Distribution Efficiency Act, including:
 - defining terms;
 - requiring the Division of Water Resources to post a summary of water loss data;
 - providing for reporting;
 - requiring the establishment of standards of acceptable levels of water loss; and
 - addressing processes for dealing with excessive levels of water loss.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

73-10h-101, Utah Code Annotated 1953**73-10h-102**, Utah Code Annotated 1953**73-10h-201**, Utah Code Annotated 1953**73-10h-202**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **73-10h-101** is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 10h. WATER DISTRIBUTION EFFICIENCY ACT

Part 1. General Provisions

73-10h-101. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Division" means the Division of Water Resources.

(2) "Governing body" means:

(a) for a political subdivision, the political subdivision governing body defined in Section [63A-15-102](#); or

(b) for a private entity, the private entity's board of directors, managing members, partners, or equivalent body.

(3) "Standard water loss audit" means a water loss audit that is based on industry accepted methodology and standards.

(4) "Water conservancy district" means an entity formed under Title 17B, Chapter 2a, Part 10, Water Conservancy District Act.

(5) "Water loss" means the difference between the annual volume of water entering a water distribution system and the annual volume of metered water, unmetered water, or both taken by registered consumers, a water provider, and others authorized to take water.

(6) "Water provider" means a:

(a) retail water supplier, as defined in Section [19-4-102](#); or

(b) a water conservancy district.

Section 2. Section **73-10h-102** is enacted to read:

73-10h-102. Summary of water loss data.

The division shall annually post on a public website a summary of water loss data reported to the Division of Water Rights by water providers in accordance with Subsection [73-2-1\(5\)\(b\)](#) and Section [73-5-8](#).

Section 3. Section **73-10h-201** is enacted to read:

Part 2. Level of Water Loss

73-10h-201. Annual report -- Establishing acceptable amount of annual water

loss.

(1) A water provider shall prepare an annual written report to the water provider's governing body addressing the amount of water loss within the water provider's system.

(2) The governing body of a water provider shall adopt a standard defining an acceptable amount of annual water loss, either as a percentage or in total number of gallons.

(3) In adopting a standard under this section, a governing body may, when the governing body determines that a distinction is justified based on engineering judgment:

(a) adopt a separate standard for a specific type of infrastructure within the water provider's system;

(b) adopt a separate standard for a specific geographic area of the water provider's system; or

(c) elect not to adopt a standard for those portions of the water provider's system that are not primarily dedicated to or used to provide potable water to the public.

Section 4. Section **73-10h-202** is enacted to read:

73-10h-202. Addressing unacceptable water loss.

If a water provider has water loss that exceeds the acceptable water loss determined in accordance with Section [73-10h-201](#), the water provider shall implement one or more processes to address the excessive water loss, which may include:

(1) a standard water loss audit;

(2) leak detection procedures;

(3) an aging infrastructure assessment and replacement plan; or

(4) an assessment of meter accuracy, including:

(a) calibration and volumetric testing of source meters, including deliveries from another entity; and

(b) bench testing of a representative sample of customer meters.