

1 **WATER USAGE BY SCHOOLS**

2 2024 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

4

5 **LONG TITLE**

6 **General Description:**

7 This bill addresses water usage by schools.

8 **Highlighted Provisions:**

9 This bill:

- 10 ▶ defines terms;
- 11 ▶ requires water providers to report water usage by certain schools;
- 12 ▶ grants rulemaking authority;
- 13 ▶ requires publication of reported data;
- 14 ▶ requires analysis and recommendations;
- 15 ▶ restricts water provider's access to certain state funds for noncompliance; and
- 16 ▶ provides for procurement of smart irrigation controllers.

17 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

18 None

19 **Other Special Clauses:**

20 None

21 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

22 ENACTS:

23 **73-5-8.3**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

24

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

26 Section 1. Section **73-5-8.3** is enacted to read:

27 **73-5-8.3. Water usage by schools.**

28 (1) As used in this section:

29 (a) "Applicable school" means the following:

30 (i) (A) a school under the control of a school district;

31 (B) a charter school that owns the land on which the charter school operates; or

32 (C) the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind; and

- 33 (ii) to which a water provider provides water.
- 34 (b) "Division" means the Division of Water Rights.
- 35 (c) "Smart irrigation controller" means a controller of an irrigation system that is:
- 36 (i) sensor based and uses real-time measurements of weather information and site
- 37 conditions such as soil type, plant type, and slope; or
- 38 (ii) signal based that regularly receives data from local weather stations via the Internet.
- 39 (d) "Water provider" means the following that provide water to an applicable school as
- 40 an end user if required to report to the division under Section 73-5-8:
- 41 (i) a retail water supplier, as defined in Section 19-4-102; or
- 42 (ii) a secondary water supplier, as defined in Section 73-10-34.
- 43 (2) Beginning on and after July 1, 2026, as part of a report to the division under
- 44 Section 73-5-8:
- 45 (a) a water provider for an applicable school shall annually report to the division the
- 46 following that is known by the water provider and relates to water usage by the applicable
- 47 school during the previous calendar year:
- 48 (i) whether during the previous calendar year the applicable school's outdoor water use
- 49 was metered separate from indoor water use;
- 50 (ii) if the outdoor water use was metered with the indoor water use, the applicable
- 51 school's total annual use of water that was provided by the water provider;
- 52 (iii) if the indoor water use was metered but the outdoor water use was not metered, the
- 53 applicable school's annual use of water for indoor use that was provided by the water provider;
- 54 and
- 55 (iv) if the outdoor water use of the applicable school was metered separate from indoor
- 56 water use, the applicable school's annual use of water that was provided by the water provider
- 57 for:
- 58 (A) the applicable school's annual outdoor water use; and
- 59 (B) the applicable school's annual indoor water use; and
- 60 (b) a water provider for an applicable school may report to the division at the same
- 61 time as the report described in Subsection (2)(a):
- 62 (i) water saving efforts engaged in by the applicable school; and
- 63 (ii) how much the applicable school has saved by water saving efforts in a previous

64 calendar year either in gallons of water used or in dollars.

65 (3) (a) A water provider shall report amounts under Subsection (2) in gallons.

66 (b) The division may make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
67 Administrative Rulemaking Act, that create procedures for reporting information under
68 Subsection (2), including the format of the information.

69 (c) The division shall annually collect the information reported in Subsection (2) and
70 report that information to the Division of Water Resources by no later than August 1 for the
71 Division of Water Resources to publish on a public website.

72 (4) (a) By no later than December 31, 2030, the Division of Water Resources shall
73 publish on a public website the following prepared by the Division of Water Resources:

74 (i) an analysis of information on school water use submitted to the division and the
75 efficiency of the applicable school water use; and

76 (ii) recommendations of actions to help applicable schools reduce water use that:

77 (A) may include possible water reduction goals adopted by the Division of Water
78 Resources by rule, made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
79 Rulemaking Act; and

80 (B) allow for the appropriate use of functional lawn or turf designated for recreational
81 purposes.

82 (b) If requested by the chairs of one of the following interim committees, the Division
83 of Water Resources shall report the Division of Water Resources' analysis and
84 recommendations during the 2031 interim of the Legislature to:

85 (i) the Education Interim Committee; or

86 (ii) the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee.

87 (5) A water provider may only receive state funds for water development if the water
88 provider complies with this section.

89 (6) The Division of Facilities Construction and Management may enter into a state
90 contract through the Division of Purchasing and General Services that may be used by a school
91 district or applicable school to purchase smart irrigation controllers.

92 **Section 2. Effective date.**

93 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.