

HB 328 Water Usage Amendments

What This Bill Does

- **Limits Overhead Spray Irrigation:** Prohibits the use of overhead spray irrigation on "nonfunctional turf" for new commercial, industrial, institutional, and multifamily construction within the Great Salt Lake (GSL) Basin.
- **Defines "Nonfunctional Turf":** Introduces a formal, statewide definition for nonfunctional turf—developed in collaboration with the Division of Water Resources (DWR) and major water districts—to ensure consistency across the state.
- **Mandates Notification:** Requires cities and counties to notify developers of these standards during the planning process, though **enforcement remains optional** for local governments.
- **Encourages Efficiency:** Prompts developers to install more efficient drip irrigation systems or native, water-wise landscaping in lieu of spray systems for aesthetic-only grass.

What This Bill Does Not Do

- **Does Not Affect Residential Lawns:** The bill does not apply to single-family residential turf of any kind.
- **Does Not Limit Functional Turf:** Actively used grass—such as lawns for play, leisure, or community gatherings at multifamily complexes—remains unaffected and can still use overhead spray.
- **No "Rip-Out" Mandate:** This bill only applies to **new** construction and redevelopment; it does not require anyone to remove existing grass.
- **Does Not Ban Turf:** It only regulates the *method* of irrigation (overhead spray) for nonfunctional areas, not the existence of the turf itself.

Why Define "Nonfunctional Turf"?

- **Policy Consistency + Efficiency:** Current standards are wordy and inconsistent across jurisdictions. A single, statewide definition provides developers and local governments with the clarity needed for objective implementation and enforcement.
- **Expert Alignment:** The Division of Water Resources [2025 Municipal and Industrial Water Conservation Opportunities Study](#) identifies a formal "nonfunctional turf" definition as a necessary policy tool for meaningful depletion reduction. According to water districts and Utah Water Ways, "nonfunctional turf" is the industry standard term and important term for broader Colorado River discussions.

Support for the Bill:

- Division of Water Resources, Dept. of Natural Resources, Prep60, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District (WCD), Jordan Valley WCD, Central Utah WCD, Utah Water Ways, Utah League of Cities and Towns, Utah Home Builders Association, Bear River Canal Company, Great Salt Lake Commissioner's Office.