

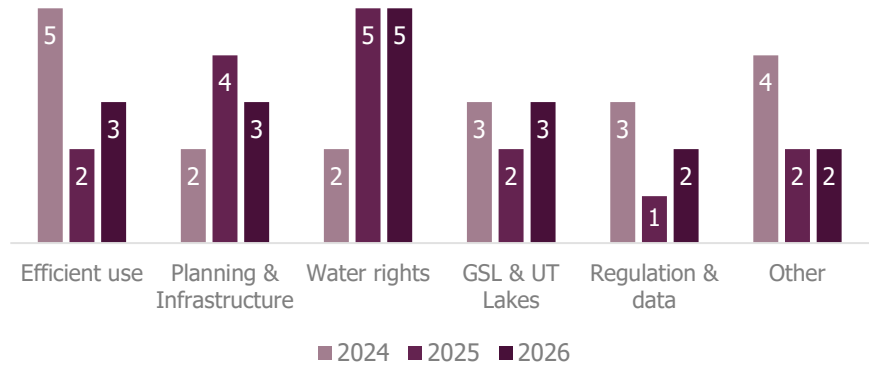


2026 Passed Legislation

Legislative Water Development Commission | May 21, 2026

The Legislature passed 18 bills during the 2026 General Session related to water. The Legislative Water Development Commission (LWDC) discussed 12 of those bills. The figure to the right shows the number of bills by subject compared to the 2024 and 2025 General Sessions. The table below lists each bill and provides a summary. Bill numbers are hyperlinked to the full bill.

2024-2026 Water Bills by Subject



This document is a general resource and may not include every piece of 2026 legislation related to water. For example, it does not include budget bills or bills that affect all state agencies. Please contact LWDC staff with questions or comments.

Number	Bill Name	Sponsor	Summary
Water Bills Discussed in LWDC			
S.B. 46	Water Wise Landscaping Amds.	Sen. Stratton Rep. Snider	Imposes landscaping requirements on state government facilities, including limits on turf that is not functional turf, limits on overhead spray irrigation, and the use of waterwise landscaping.
S.B. 130	River Restoration Amds.	Sen. Fillmore Rep. Acton	Modifies how the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands expends money related to a Jordan River improvement project and creates a matching grant program to fund improvement projects that increase access to a recreational activity on the Jordan River.
S.B. 252	Water Usage at State-owned Facilities Amds.	Sen. Pitcher Rep. Koford	Requires a state agency to take certain actions related to irrigation and use of low-water turf and directs the Division of Facilities Construction and Management to audit irrigation systems.
H.B. 19	Drinking Water Utilities Amds.	Rep. Jack Sen. Balderree	Requires a community water system to complete an emergency response plan and report a security breach to the Utah Cyber Center within two hours of discovering the breach. Requires the Division of Drinking Water to report annually on security at community water systems.
H.B. 60	Water Rights Amds.	Rep. Shallenberger Sen. Stratton	Modifies the extent to which the state engineer may consider a protest and the grounds that the state engineer may consider in approving or rejecting an application, including what the state engineer may consider related to public welfare. Clarifies who is an aggrieved person for purposes of seeking judicial review. Addresses temporary applications.



H.B. 63	Livestock Watering Amds.	Rep. Chew Sen. Sandall	Provides for sub-basin livestock watering claims.
H.B. 69	Drinking Water Restructuring Amds.	Rep. Albrecht Sen. Stratton	Addresses violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act (act). Allows a court to appoint a receiver for a supplier of a public water system to implement a corrective or remedial action for a violation of the act or compliance order, and to require a violator to divest ownership of the public water system. Requires the Division of Drinking Water to report to a legislative committee if it brings a civil action that may result in a receivership or divestment for a public water system supplier.
H.B. 76	Data Center Water Transparency Amds.	Rep. Koford Sen. Sandall	Directs land use authorities to issue certain notices before approving a land use application for a new large data center. Requires certain large data centers to notify the water provider and submit a report to the Division of Water Rights (division) before construction begins and to submit an annual report to the division after beginning operation. Addresses disclosure of the reported information and provides for enforcement mechanisms.
H.B. 187	Water Amds.	Rep. Jack Sen. Ipson	Exempts certain water conservancy district water rights related to the lower basin from provisions related to abandonment or forfeiture for nonuse. Prohibits certain instream flow applications related to the lower basin.
H.B. 247	Great Salt Lake Related Amds.	Rep. Ward Sen. Sandall	Addresses the Sovereign Land Management Account, including directing revenue generated by the brine shrimp royalty tax to the Sovereign Lands Management Account instead of the Species Protection Account under certain circumstances. Increases the brine shrimp royalty tax rate for a tax year beginning on or after February 1, 2026. Addresses the timing of certification of information and modifies a provision concerning a calculation for severance taxes related to certain Great Salt Lake extraction operators.
H.B. 251	Diligence Claims Water Amds.	Rep. Chew Sen. Hinkins	Creates a rebuttable presumption that a claimant has the right to use a livestock watering pond related to a homestead parcel under certain circumstances. Establishes the process for rebutting the presumption.
H.B. 473	Colorado River Authority Amds.	Rep. Chew Sen. Hinkins	Moves the Colorado River Authority of Utah (authority) from the governor's office to the Department of Natural Resources. Modifies provisions related to the authority, including the definition, membership, its operation, powers and duties, appointment and compensation of the river commissioner, and the hiring of the executive director.



Other Water Bills

S.B. 20	Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Technical Changes	Sen. Stratton Rep. Albrecht	Repeals and clarifies outdated provisions and makes other technical changes to statutes related to natural resources, agriculture, and environment or related legislative committees.
S.B. 284	Local Land and Water Mods.	Sen. Fillmore Rep. Koford	Modifies provisions related to local land use and water planning, including requiring counties, municipalities and special districts to adopt a written plan, beginning on January 1, 2028, for determining the reasonable future water requirement before imposing a water exaction.
H.B. 296	Water Commitment Amds.	Rep. Nguyen Sen. Sandall	Permits a water provider to include a commitment of available water to uses on the Great Salt Lake in the water provider's water conservation plan.
H.B. 313	Landscaper Certification Amds.	Rep. Arthur Sen. Hinkins	Requires that the Division of Professional Licensing to identify a specialty contractor that primarily engages in landscape work and provides continuing education requirements that include water conservation and fire risk management landscaping principles.
H.B. 348	Dedicated Water Amds.	Rep. Koford Sen. Sandall	Addresses the approval of dedicated water applications, including prohibiting segregation of a dedicated water application from an underlying water right, addressing process for approval of instream flow and related actions, and providing for the filing and approval of a dedicated water application.
H.B. 410	Water Leasing Amds.	Rep. Koford Sen. Sandall	Addresses the leasing of water, including creating the Great Salt Lake (GSL) Preservation Board within the Office of the GSL Commissioner to establish a program for the leasing of agricultural water for the benefit of the GSL.