

WATER CONSERVATION AMENDMENTS

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Gage Froerer

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies provisions related to landscaping and water conservation plans.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ addresses a municipality's or a county's authority to require certain types of landscaping in certain zoning districts;
- ▶ modifies the required contents of a water conservation plan; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

73-10-32, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapter 329

ENACTS:

10-9a-527, Utah Code Annotated 1953

17-27a-525, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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



28 Section 1. Section 10-9a-527 is enacted to read:

29 **10-9a-527. Landscape regulation.**

30 A legislative body may not require that more than 5% of a property be landscaped with
31 vegetation if the property is within a zoning district that is primarily intended for commercial
32 or industrial uses.

33 Section 2. Section 17-27a-525 is enacted to read:

34 **17-27a-525. Landscape regulation.**

35 A legislative body may not require that more than 5% of a property be landscaped with
36 vegetation if the property is within a zoning district that is primarily intended for commercial
37 or industrial uses.

38 Section 3. Section 73-10-32 is amended to read:

39 **73-10-32. Definitions -- Water conservation plan required.**

40 (1) As used in this section:

41 (a) "Board" means the Board of Water Resources created under Section 73-10-1.5.

42 (b) "Division" means the Division of Water Resources created under Section 73-10-18.

43 (c) "Retail" means the level of distribution of culinary water that supplies culinary
44 water directly to the end user.

45 (d) "Retail water provider" means an entity which:

46 (i) supplies culinary water to end users; and

47 (ii) has more than 500 service connections.

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

50 (f) "Water conservation plan" means a written document that contains existing and
51 proposed water conservation measures describing what will be done by retail water providers,
52 water conservancy districts, and the end user of culinary water to help conserve water and limit
53 or reduce its use in the state in terms of per capita consumption so that adequate supplies of
54 water are available for future needs.

55 (2) (a) Each water conservancy district and each retail water provider shall ensure that
56 each water conservation plan [~~shall contain~~] contains:

57 (i) a clearly stated overall water use reduction goal and an implementation plan for
58 each of the water conservation measures it chooses to use, including a timeline for action and

59 an evaluation process to measure progress;

60 (ii) a requirement that each water conservancy district and retail water provider devote
61 part of at least one regular meeting every five years of its governing body to a discussion and
62 formal adoption of the water conservation plan, and allow public comment on it;

63 (iii) a requirement that a notification procedure be implemented that includes the
64 delivery of the water conservation plan to the media and to the governing body of each
65 municipality and county served by the water conservancy district or retail water provider; ~~[and]~~

66 (iv) a copy of the minutes of the meeting and the notification procedure required in
67 Subsections (2)(a)(ii) and (iii) which shall be added as an appendix to the plan[-]; and
68 ~~[(b) A water conservation plan may include]~~

69 (v) except as provided in Subsection (2)(c), information regarding:

70 ~~[(i)]~~ (A) the installation and use of water efficient fixtures and appliances, including
71 toilets, shower fixtures, and faucets;

72 ~~[(ii)]~~ (B) residential and commercial landscapes and irrigation that require less water to
73 maintain;

74 ~~[(iii)]~~ (C) more water efficient industrial and commercial processes involving the use
75 of water;

76 ~~[(iv)]~~ (D) water reuse systems, both potable and not potable;

77 ~~[(v)]~~ (E) distribution system leak repair;

78 ~~[(vi)]~~ (F) dissemination of public information regarding more efficient use of water,
79 including public education programs, customer water use audits, and water saving
80 demonstrations;

81 ~~[(vii)]~~ (G) water rate structures designed to encourage more efficient use of water;

82 ~~[(viii)]~~ (H) existing or potential statutes, ordinances, codes, or regulations designed to
83 encourage more efficient use of water by means such as water efficient fixtures and water
84 efficient landscapes, including restrictions on grass landscaping;

85 ~~[(ix)]~~ (I) incentives to implement water efficient techniques, including rebates to water
86 users to encourage the implementation of more water efficient measures; and

87 ~~[(x)]~~ (J) other measures designed to conserve water.

88 ~~[(e)]~~ (b) The Division of Water Resources may be contacted for information and
89 technical resources regarding measures listed in ~~[Subsections (2)(b)(i) through (2)(b)(x)]~~

90 Subsection (2)(a)(v).

91 (c) The requirements described in Subsections (2)(a)(v)(B) through (D) and
92 Subsections (2)(a)(v)(G) through (I) do not apply to a water conservancy district.

93 (3) (a) Before April 1, 1999, each water conservancy district and each retail water
94 provider shall:

95 (i) (A) prepare and adopt a water conservation plan if one has not already been
96 adopted; or

97 (B) if the district or provider has already adopted a water conservation plan, review the
98 existing water conservation plan to determine if it should be amended and, if so, amend the
99 water conservation plan; and

100 (ii) file a copy of the water conservation plan or amended water conservation plan with
101 the division.

102 (b) Before adopting or amending a water conservation plan, each water conservancy
103 district or retail water provider shall hold a public hearing with reasonable, advance public
104 notice.

105 (4) (a) The board shall:

106 (i) provide guidelines and technical resources to retail water providers and water
107 conservancy districts to prepare and implement water conservation plans;

108 (ii) investigate alternative measures designed to conserve water; and

109 (iii) report regarding its compliance with the act and impressions of the overall quality
110 of the plans submitted to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim
111 Committee of the Legislature at its meeting in November 2004.

112 (b) The board shall publish an annual report in a paper of state-wide distribution
113 specifying the retail water providers and water conservancy districts that do not have a current
114 water conservation plan on file with the board at the end of the calendar year.

115 (5) A water conservancy district or retail water provider may only receive state funds
116 for water development if they comply with the requirements of this act.

117 (6) Each water conservancy district and retail water provider specified under
118 Subsection (3)(a) shall:

119 (a) update its water conservation plan no less frequently than every five years; and

120 (b) follow the procedures required under Subsection (3) when updating the water

121 conservation plan.

122 (7) It is the intent of the Legislature that the water conservation plans, amendments to
123 existing water conservation plans, and the studies and report by the board be handled within the
124 existing budgets of the respective entities or agencies.

Legislative Review Note
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel