

**WATER AMENDMENTS**

2022 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Jani Iwamoto**

House Sponsor: Timothy D. Hawkes

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill addresses information related to water including water conservation.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ modifies provisions related to a water conservation plan, including provisions:
  - defining terms;
  - requiring goals for water conservation to be set;
  - addressing adopting, amending, submitting, or posting a water conservation plan;
  - requiring rate structures to be submitted under certain circumstances; and
  - addressing division powers, including rulemaking;
- ▶ modifies provision related to culinary water pricing structure; and
- ▶ makes technical 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



28 **73-10-32.5**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2016, Chapter 282



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

31 Section 1. Section **73-10-32** is amended to read:

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

33 (1) As used in this section:

34 [~~(a) "Board" means the Board of Water Resources created under Section **73-10-1.5**.]~~

35 [~~(b)~~] (a) "Division" means the Division of Water Resources created under Section

36 **73-10-18**.

37 [~~(c) "Retail" means the level of distribution of culinary water that supplies culinary~~  
38 ~~water directly to the end user.~~]

39 [~~(d) "Retail water provider" means an entity which:~~

40 [~~(i) supplies culinary water to end users; and]~~

41 [~~(ii) has more than 500 service connections.~~]

42 [~~(e)~~] (b) "Water conservancy district" means an entity formed under Title 17B, Chapter  
43 2a, Part 10, Water Conservancy District Act.

44 [(f)] (c) "Water conservation plan" means a written document that contains existing  
45 and proposed water conservation measures describing what will be done by [~~retail water~~  
46 ~~providers, water conservancy districts~~] a water provider, and the end user of culinary water to  
47 help conserve water [~~and limit or reduce its use~~] in the state in terms of per capita  
48 [~~consumption~~] use of water provided through culinary water infrastructure owned or operated  
49 by the water provider so that adequate supplies of water are available for future needs.

50 (d) "Water provider" means:

51 (i) a retail water supplier, as defined in Section **19-4-102**; or

52 a water conservancy district.

53 (2) (a) [~~Each~~] A water conservation plan shall contain:

54 (i) (A) a clearly stated overall water use reduction goal that is consistent with  
55 Subsection (2)(d); and

56 (B) an implementation plan for each [of the] water conservation [measures it] measure  
57 a water provider chooses to use, including a timeline for action and an evaluation process to  
58 measure progress;

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

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

66 [(iv)] (iii) a copy of the minutes of the meeting regarding a water conservation plan and  
67 the notification procedure required in [Subsections (2)(a)(ii) and (iii) which] Subsection  
68 (2)(a)(ii) that shall be added as an appendix to the water conservation plan[;]; and

69 (iv) for a retail water supplier, as defined in Section 19-4-102, the retail water  
70 supplier's rate structure that is:

71 (A) adopted by the retail water supplier's governing body in accordance with Section  
72 73-10-32.5; and

73 (B) current as of the day the retail water supplier files a water conservation plan.

74 (b) A water conservation plan may include information regarding:

75 (i) the installation and use of water efficient fixtures and appliances, including toilets,  
76 shower fixtures, and faucets;

77 (ii) residential and commercial landscapes and irrigation that require less water to  
78 maintain;

79 (iii) more water efficient industrial and commercial processes involving the use of  
80 water;

81 (iv) water reuse systems, both potable and not potable;

82 (v) distribution system leak repair;

83 (vi) dissemination of public information regarding more efficient use of water,  
84 including public education programs, customer water use audits, and water saving  
85 demonstrations;

86 (vii) water rate structures designed to encourage more efficient use of water;

87 (viii) statutes, ordinances, codes, or regulations designed to encourage more efficient  
88 use of water by means such as water efficient fixtures and landscapes;

89 (ix) incentives to implement water efficient techniques, including rebates to water

90 users to encourage the implementation of more water efficient measures; and

91 (x) other measures designed to conserve water.

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

94 Subsection (2)(b).

95 (d) (i) The division shall adopt by rule, made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3,  
96 Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, regional water conservation goals that:

97 (A) are developed by the division;

98 (B) are reevaluated by December 31, 2030, and every 10 years after December 31,  
99 2030; and

100 (C) define what constitutes "water being conserved" under a water conservation goal  
101 after considering factors such as depletion, diversion, use, consumption, or return flows.

102 (ii) As part of a water conservation plan, a water provider shall adopt:

103 (A) the regional water conservation goal applicable to the water provider;

104 (B) a water conservation goal that would result in more water being conserved than  
105 would be conserved under the regional water conservation goal; or

106 (C) a water conservation goal that would result in less water being conserved than  
107 would be conserved under the regional water conservation goal with a reasonable justification  
108 as to why the different water conservation goal is adopted and an explanation of the factors  
109 supporting the reasonable justification, such as demographics, geography, lot sizes, make up of  
110 water service classes, or availability of secondary water.

111 (3) (a) ~~[Before April 1, 1999, each water conservancy district and each retail]~~ A water  
112 provider shall:

113 (i) ~~[(A)]~~ prepare and adopt a water conservation plan ~~[if one has not already been~~  
114 ~~adopted; or]; and~~

115 ~~[(B) if the district or provider has already adopted a water conservation plan, review~~  
116 ~~the existing water conservation plan to determine if it should be amended and, if so, amend the~~  
117 ~~water conservation plan; and]~~

118 (ii) file a copy of the water conservation plan ~~[or amended water conservation plan]~~  
119 with the division.

120 (b) (i) Before adopting or amending a water conservation plan, ~~[each water~~

121 ~~conservancy district or retail]~~ a water provider shall hold a public hearing with reasonable,  
 122 advance public notice in accordance with this Subsection (3)(b).

123 (ii) The water provider shall provide public notice at least 14 days before the date of  
 124 the public hearing.

125 (iii) A water provider meets the requirements of reasonable notice required by this  
 126 Subsection (3)(b) if the water provider posts notice of the public hearing in at least three public  
 127 places within the service area of the water provider and:

128 (A) if the water provider is a public entity, posts notice on the Utah Public Notice  
 129 Website, created in Section 63A-16-601; or

130 (B) if the water provider is a private entity and has a public website, posts notice on the  
 131 water provider's public website.

132 (iv) Proof that notice described in Subsection (3)(b)(iii) was given is prima facie  
 133 evidence that notice was properly given.

134 (v) If notice given under authority of this Subsection (3)(b) is not challenged within 30  
 135 days from the date of the public hearing for which the notice was given, the notice is  
 136 considered adequate and proper.

137 (c) A water provider shall:

138 (i) post the water provider's water conservation plan on a public website; or

139 (ii) if the water provider does not have a public website, make the water provider's  
 140 water conservation plan publically available for inspection upon request.

141 (4) (a) The ~~[board]~~ division shall:

142 (i) provide guidelines and technical resources to ~~[retail water providers and water~~  
 143 ~~conservancy districts to]~~ help water providers prepare and implement water conservation plans;

144 (ii) ~~[investigate alternative measures designed to conserve water]~~ assist water providers  
 145 by identifying water conservation methods upon request; and

146 ~~[(iii) report regarding its compliance with the act and impressions of the overall quality~~  
 147 ~~of the plans submitted to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim~~  
 148 ~~Committee of the Legislature at its meeting in November 2004.]~~

149 (iii) provide an online submission form that allows for an electronic copy of the water  
 150 conservation plan to be filed with the division under Subsection (3)(a)(ii).

151 (b) The ~~[board]~~ division shall ~~[publish]~~ post an annual report ~~[in a paper of state-wide~~

152 ~~distribution specifying the retail water providers and water conservancy districts that do not~~  
153 ~~have a current water conservation plan on file with the board]~~ at the end of ~~[the]~~ a calendar year  
154 listing water providers in compliance with this section.

155 (5) A ~~[water conservancy district or retail]~~ water provider may only receive state funds  
156 for water development if ~~[they comply]~~ the water provider complies with the requirements of  
157 this ~~[act]~~ section.

158 (6) ~~[Each water conservancy district and retail]~~ A water provider specified under  
159 Subsection (3)(a) shall:

160 (a) update ~~[its]~~ the water provider's water conservation plan no less frequently than  
161 every five years; and

162 (b) follow the procedures required under Subsection (3) when updating the water  
163 conservation plan.

164 (7) It is the intent of the Legislature that the water conservation plans, amendments to  
165 existing water conservation plans, and the studies and report by the ~~[board]~~ division be handled  
166 within the existing budgets of the respective entities or agencies.

167 Section 2. Section **73-10-32.5** is amended to read:

168 **73-10-32.5. Culinary water pricing structure.**

169 (1) As used in this section, "retail water supplier" means the same as that term is  
170 defined in Section 19-4-102.

171 (2) A retail water ~~[provider, as defined in Section 73-10-32;]~~ supplier shall:

172 ~~[(+)]~~ (a) establish a culinary water rate structure that:

173 ~~[(a)]~~ (i) incorporates increasing block units of water used; and

174 ~~[(b)]~~ (ii) provides for an increase in the rate charged for additional block units of water  
175 used as usage increases from one block unit to the next;

176 ~~[(2)]~~ (b) provide in customer billing notices, or in a notice that is distributed to  
177 customers at least annually, block unit rates and the customer's billing cycle; and

178 ~~[(3)]~~ (c) include individual customer water usage in customer billing notices.