

1 **WATER RIGHTS RESTRICTED ACCOUNT AMENDMENTS**

 2024 GENERAL SESSION

 STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Scott D. Sandall

 House Sponsor: Casey Snider

2
3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill modifies provisions related to the Water Rights Restricted Account.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

8 ▸ modifies the purposes for which money in the Water Rights Restricted Account may be
9 expended; and

10 ▸ makes technical changes.

11 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

12 None

13 **Other Special Clauses:**

14 None

15 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

16 AMENDS:

17 **73-2-1.6**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 106

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

20 Section 1. Section **73-2-1.6** is amended to read:

21 **73-2-1.6 . Water Rights Restricted Account.**

22 (1) As used in this section:

23 (a) "Account" means the Water Rights Restricted Account created by this section.

24 (b) "Division" means the Division of Water Rights.

25 (2) There is created in the General Fund a restricted account known as the "Water Rights
26 Restricted Account."

27 (3) The account shall consist of the money deposited into the account under Subsection
28 59-12-103(5)(e).

- 29 (4) Upon appropriation, the division may use money in the account for:
- 30 (a) costs incurred by the division that benefit water rights adjudications, including:
- 31 [~~(a)~~] (i) employing technical staff;
- 32 [~~(b)~~] (ii) acquiring equipment;
- 33 [~~(c)~~] (iii) obtaining legal support; [~~and~~]
- 34 [~~(d)~~] (iv) conducting studies[-] ;
- 35 (A) installing, operating, and maintaining measurement infrastructure; and
- 36 (B) sharing the costs of installed United States Geological Survey stream gauges;
- 37 and
- 38 (b) not to exceed 5% of the money deposited into the account under Subsection
- 39 59-12-103(5)(e) in the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year of appropriation, costs
- 40 incurred by the division to acquire, manage, and analyze surface and groundwater
- 41 data, not limited to geographic areas of adjudication.
- 42 (5) (a) The account may not exceed \$8,000,000 at the end of a fiscal year.
- 43 (b) If the account exceeds \$8,000,000 at the end of a fiscal year, the Division of Finance
- 44 shall deposit into the Water Resources Conservation and Development Fund, created
- 45 in Section 73-10-24, the money in excess of the amount necessary to maintain the
- 46 account balance at \$8,000,000.
- 47 Section 2. **Effective date.**
- 48 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.