

WATER RIGHTS RESTRICTED ACCOUNT AMENDMENTS

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Scott D. Sandall

House Sponsor: Casey Snider

LONG TITLE

General Description:

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

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ modifies the purposes for which money in the Water Rights Restricted Account may be expended; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

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

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

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

73-2-1.6. Water Rights Restricted Account.

(1) As used in this section:

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



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

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

31 (3) The account shall consist of the money deposited into the account under Subsection
32 [59-12-103\(5\)\(e\)](#).

33 (4) Upon appropriation, the division may use money in the account for:

34 (a) costs incurred by the division that benefit water rights adjudications, including:

35 ~~[(a)]~~ (i) employing technical staff;

36 ~~[(b)]~~ (ii) acquiring equipment;

37 ~~[(c)]~~ (iii) obtaining legal support; ~~[and]~~

38 ~~[(d)]~~ (iv) conducting studies[-];

39 (v) installing, operating, and maintaining measurement infrastructure; and

40 (vi) sharing the costs of installed United States Geological Survey stream gauges; and

41 (b) not to exceed 5% of the money deposited into the account under Subsection

42 [59-12-103\(5\)\(e\)](#) in the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year of appropriation, costs incurred by
43 the division to acquire, manage, and analyze surface and groundwater data, not limited to
44 geographic areas of adjudication.

45 (5) (a) The account may not exceed \$8,000,000 at the end of a fiscal year.

46 (b) If the account exceeds \$8,000,000 at the end of a fiscal year, the Division of
47 Finance shall deposit into the Water Resources Conservation and Development Fund, created
48 in Section [73-10-24](#), the money in excess of the amount necessary to maintain the account
49 balance at \$8,000,000.

50 Section 2. **Effective date.**

51 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.