

**Senator Nate Blouin** proposes the following substitute bill:

**GREAT SALT LAKE AMENDMENTS**

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Nate Blouin**

House Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill addresses the Great Salt Lake Commissioner.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ directs the Great Salt Lake Commissioner to make a plan to address wet water years;
- ▶ requires reporting; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

This bill provides a special effective date.

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**73-32-202**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 205

ENACTS:

**73-32-205**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

27 Section 1. Section **73-32-202** is amended to read:

28 **73-32-202. Duties and authorizations of the commissioner.**

29 (1) The commissioner shall:

30 (a) subject to Section **73-32-204**, prepare an approved strategic plan for the long-term  
31 health of the Great Salt Lake and update the strategic plan regularly;

32 (b) oversee the execution of the strategic plan by other state agencies as provided in  
33 Section **73-32-203**;

34 (c) maintain information that measures Great Salt Lake levels, salinity, and overall  
35 health;

36 (d) meet regularly with the executive director of the department and with the executive  
37 director of the Department of Environmental Quality;

38 (e) consult with the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands regarding Title 65A,  
39 Chapter 16, Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement Program;

40 (f) monitor the integrated water assessment conducted under Chapter 10g, Part 4, Great  
41 Salt Lake Watershed Integrated Water Assessment;

42 (g) inform the governor, the president of the Senate, and the speaker of the House of  
43 Representatives, at least annually, about the status of the strategic plan and the progress  
44 regarding implementation of the strategic plan;

45 (h) at least annually report to the Executive Appropriations Committee regarding the  
46 expenditure of money under this chapter;

47 (i) coordinate and work collaboratively with water conservancy districts that serve  
48 water users within the Great Salt Lake watershed; ~~and~~

49 (j) annually report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim  
50 Committee regarding the activities of the commissioner[-]; and

51 (k) develop a wet water year plan as required by Section **73-32-205**.

52 (2) The commissioner may:

53 (a) access information from other state or federal agencies related to the Great Salt  
54 Lake;

55 (b) develop cooperative agreements between the state, political subdivisions, and  
56 agencies of the federal government for involvement in the strategic plan;

- 57 (c) produce research, documents, maps, studies, analysis, or other information that
- 58 supports the strategic plan for the Great Salt Lake;
- 59 (d) facilitate and coordinate the exchange of information, comments, and
- 60 recommendations on Great Salt Lake policies between and among:
- 61 (i) state agencies;
- 62 (ii) political subdivisions;
- 63 (iii) institutions of higher education that conduct research relevant to the Great Salt
- 64 Lake;
- 65 (iv) nonprofit entities; and
- 66 (v) private business;
- 67 (e) communicate with the Great Salt Lake Watershed Council created under Chapter
- 68 10g, Part 3, Watershed Councils Act; and
- 69 (f) perform other duties that the commissioner considers necessary or expedient to
- 70 carry out the purposes of this chapter.

71 (3) In fulfilling the duties under this chapter, the commissioner shall consult and

72 coordinate, as necessary, with:

- 73 (a) the department;
- 74 (b) the Department of Agriculture and Food;
- 75 (c) the Department of Environmental Quality;
- 76 (d) other applicable state agencies;
- 77 (e) political subdivisions of the state;
- 78 (f) federal agencies;
- 79 (g) elected officials; and
- 80 (h) local tribal officials.

81 Section 2. Section **73-32-205** is enacted to read:

82 **73-32-205. Plan for wet water years.**

83 (1) As used in this section:

- 84 (a) "Plan" means the plan developed under Subsection (2).
- 85 (b) "Water year" means a 12 month period beginning October 1 and ending September
- 86 30.
- 87 (c) "Wet water year" means hydrologic and meteorological conditions with

88 precipitation or runoff resulting in or reasonably expected to lead to substantially higher than  
89 normal water levels in rivers, reservoirs, or soil moisture in the Great Salt Lake basin at the end  
90 of a water year.

91 (2) (a) The commissioner shall by October 1, 2025, adopt a plan for wet water years to  
92 provide guidance for a coordinated effort to maximize the amount of water that makes it into  
93 the Great Salt Lake during or following a wet water year.

94 (b) The commissioner shall consult with state agencies, water conservancy districts,  
95 and a wide range of stakeholders with diverse interests to assist the commissioner in  
96 developing the plan, including stakeholders with expertise in:

97 (i) potable and nonpotable water conservation, storage, use, planning, and distribution;

98 (ii) water rights; and

99 (iii) agricultural, municipal, and industrial water use.

100 (3) The commissioner may update the plan as new information, resources, or  
101 technologies become available.

102 (4) The commissioner shall report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and  
103 Environment Interim Committee by no later than the 2025 November interim meeting of that  
104 committee concerning the plan.

105 **Section 3. Effective date.**

106 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), if approved by two-thirds of all the members  
107 elected to each house, this bill takes effect upon approval by the governor, or the day following  
108 the constitutional time limit of Utah Constitution, Article VII, Section 8, without the governor's  
109 signature, or in the case of a veto, the date of veto override.

110 (2) If this bill is not approved by two-thirds of all members elected to each house, this  
111 bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.