

2025 Water Legislation

Water legislation in 2025 built on previous years of water legislation, shown in HB 274, HB 285 and SB 80 in particular. Changes to statewide water infrastructure project funding are moving forward.

Bill Summary	Impact to Water Resources
HB 41 mandates Utah to promote state water planning, including the formation of the state water plan and the monitoring, in consultation with watershed councils, of activities in watersheds that provide water to drinking water systems to protect the watersheds.	The division produces the state water plan . The next plan will be published in 2026.
HB 243 modifies the account to enhance agricultural water efficiency and research, and adjusts grant eligibility requirements, reducing the matching fund percentage from 50% to 25% for specific types of irrigation and measurement projects.	The division director sits on the Agriculture Water Optimization Committee .
HB 251 makes the Pollinator Habitat Program permanent.	The division's Conservation Section distributes native seed packets from this program.
HB 274 allows water conservation to be used as an element in determining the rate charged for a block unit of water. By July 1, 2027, culinary water rate structure shall include one or more conservation efforts as an element in determining the rate charged for at least the highest usage block unit of water for residential customers. By July 1, 2030, a secondary water supplier shall begin billing an end user using a tiered conservation rate. Secondary water supplier may contract with a public water system to conduct the billing. Secondary water supplier shall charge an end user at the lowest tiered conservation rate if the end user is using a portion of the water to grow food, including growing a garden, fruit trees or pasture for grazing. Violators subject to enforcement action by the State Engineer.	Tiered rates will help promote water conservation.

Download to see more →



Bill Summary

Impact to Water Resources

HB 285 repeals the Water Resources Cities Water Loan Fund, authorizes transfers of money to and from the [Water Infrastructure Fund](#), requires capital asset management plans and reserve funding and outlines the water infrastructure prioritization process. Removes the Department of Agriculture and Food and Division of Housing and Community Development as relevant agencies from the Water Development Coordinating Council. The remaining relevant agencies are the divisions of Water Quality, Drinking Water and Water Resources.

The division is a relevant agency on the Water Development Coordinating Council. Funding processes for water infrastructure projects, including those that have historically been funded through the [Board of Water Resources](#), will be tied to the new Water Infrastructure Fund and funding process.

HB 311 modifies benefits for [Division of Water Rights water commissioners](#). Allows the State Water Agent to: act in interests to interstate compacts including the Colorado and Bear rivers, negotiate with tribes on the Colorado River and recommend water augmentation projects to the Board of Water Resources. The bill also modifies the membership requirements for the Legislative Water Development Commission to a minimum of two representatives and two senators with at least one from the minority political party.

The Board of Water Resources funds water projects across the state with assistance from division staff.

HB 412 removes political neutrality requirements for the Drinking Water Board, Water Quality Board and Board of Water Resources.

Will impact future appointees to the Board of Water Resources.

SB 80 requires the Department of Environmental Quality to establish a fee schedule for the regulation of public water systems. Also allows the Water Development Coordinating Council to establish a fee schedule for public water systems for water service and delivery.

The director of the division sits on the Water Development Coordinating Council.