

SB0196S01 compared with SB0196

~~text~~ shows text that was in SB0196 but was deleted in SB0196S01.

inserted text shows text that was not in SB0196 but was inserted into SB0196S01.

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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 ~~and conduct a pilot program~~ 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.

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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

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

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

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

- (1) The commissioner shall:
- (a) subject to Section 73-32-204, prepare an approved strategic plan for the long-term health of the Great Salt Lake and update the strategic plan regularly;
 - (b) oversee the execution of the strategic plan by other state agencies as provided in Section 73-32-203;
 - (c) maintain information that measures Great Salt Lake levels, salinity, and overall health;
 - (d) meet regularly with the executive director of the department and with the executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality;
 - (e) consult with the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands regarding Title 65A, Chapter 16, Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement Program;
 - (f) monitor the integrated water assessment conducted under Chapter 10g, Part 4, Great Salt Lake Watershed Integrated Water Assessment;
 - (g) inform the governor, the president of the Senate, and the speaker of the House of Representatives, at least annually, about the status of the strategic plan and the progress regarding implementation of the strategic plan;
 - (h) at least annually report to the Executive Appropriations Committee regarding the expenditure of money under this chapter;
 - (i) coordinate and work collaboratively with water conservancy districts that serve water users within the Great Salt Lake watershed; ~~and~~
 - (j) annually report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee regarding the activities of the commissioner~~[-]; and~~

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(k) develop a ~~wet water year~~ plan ~~and conduct a pilot project~~ as required by Section 73-32-205.

(2) The commissioner may:

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

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

(c) produce research, documents, maps, studies, analysis, or other information that supports the strategic plan for the Great Salt Lake;

(d) facilitate and coordinate the exchange of information, comments, and recommendations on Great Salt Lake policies between and among:

(i) state agencies;

(ii) political subdivisions;

(iii) institutions of higher education that conduct research relevant to the Great Salt Lake;

(iv) nonprofit entities; and

(v) private business;

(e) communicate with the Great Salt Lake Watershed Council created under Chapter 10g, Part 3, Watershed Councils Act; and

(f) perform other duties that the commissioner considers necessary or expedient to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(3) In fulfilling the duties under this chapter, the commissioner shall consult and coordinate, as necessary, with:

(a) the department;

(b) the Department of Agriculture and Food;

(c) the Department of Environmental Quality;

(d) other applicable state agencies;

(e) political subdivisions of the state;

(f) federal agencies;

(g) elected officials; and

(h) local tribal officials.

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

73-32-205. Plan ~~and pilot project~~ for wet water years.

(1) As used in this section:

~~{ (a) "Pilot project" means the pilot project described in Subsection (4).~~

~~{ (b) a~~ "Plan" means the plan developed under Subsection (2).

~~{ (c) b~~ "Water year" means a 12 month period beginning October 1 and ending September 30.

~~{ (d) c~~ "Wet water year" means hydrologic and meteorological conditions with precipitation or runoff resulting in or reasonably expected to lead to substantially higher than normal water levels in rivers, reservoirs, ~~and~~ or soil moisture in the Great Salt Lake basin at the end of a water year.

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

(b) The ~~plan shall include best practices for wet water years.~~

~~{ (c) The } commissioner shall consult with state agencies, water conservancy districts, and a wide range of stakeholders with diverse interests to assist the commissioner in developing the plan, including ~~{those} stakeholders~~ with expertise in:~~

(i) potable and nonpotable water conservation, storage, use, planning, and distribution ~~{, and}.~~

(ii) water rights ~~{ to assist the commissioner in developing the plan}; and~~

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

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

~~{ (4) The commissioner shall develop and implement a pilot project to end no later than October 1, 2025, that is designed to implement the best practices for wet water years found in the plan.~~

~~{ (5) 4~~ The commissioner shall report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee by no later than the 2025 November interim meeting of that committee concerning ~~{:~~

~~{ (a) } the plan ~~{; and~~~~

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~~(b) the findings and results of the pilot project.~~

Section 3. **Effective date.**

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

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