

**GREAT SALT LAKE AMENDMENTS**

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Nate Blouin**

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

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**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.

**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

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

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 plan and conduct a pilot project 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 and pilot project for wet water years.**

83 (1) As used in this section:

- 84 (a) "Pilot project" means the pilot project described in Subsection (4).
- 85 (b) "Plan" means the plan developed under Subsection (2).
- 86 (c) "Water year" means a 12 month period beginning October 1 and ending September
- 87 30.
- 88 (d) "Wet water year" means hydrologic and meteorological conditions with
- 89 precipitation or runoff resulting in or reasonably expected to lead to substantially higher than

90 normal water levels in rivers, reservoirs, and soil moisture in the Great Salt Lake basin at the  
91 end of a water year.

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

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

96 (c) The commissioner shall consult with state agencies and a wide range of  
97 stakeholders with diverse interests, including those with expertise in potable and nonpotable  
98 water conservation, storage, use, planning, distribution, and water rights to assist the  
99 commissioner in developing the plan.

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

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

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

108 (a) the plan; and

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

110 **Section 3. Effective date.**

111 If approved by two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, this bill takes effect  
112 upon approval by the governor, or the day following the constitutional time limit of Utah  
113 Constitution, Article VII, Section 8, without the governor's signature, or in the case of a veto,  
114 the date of veto override.