

UTAH WATER WAYS AMENDMENTS

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Doug Owens

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

Committee Note:

The Legislative Water Development Commission recommended this bill.

Membership: 13 legislators 11 non-legislators

Total Vote: 5 voting for 3 voting against 5 absent

Legislative Vote: 5 voting for 3 voting against 5 absent

General Description:

This bill addresses the partnership of Utah Water Ways.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ outlines coordination related to water and the public education system; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

79-2-408, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 163

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



28 Section 1. Section **79-2-408** is amended to read:

29 **79-2-408. Utah Water Ways.**

30 (1) As used in this section:

31 (a) "Partnership" means the nonprofit, statewide partnership described in Subsections
32 (2) and (3).

33 (b) "Water supply entity" means an entity supplying either culinary or irrigation water
34 to a water user.

35 (2) The department shall oversee:

36 (a) the creation of a nonprofit, statewide partnership in accordance with this section;
37 and

38 (b) the state's participation in the partnership.

39 (3) The partnership shall:

40 (a) be known as "Utah Water Ways";

41 (b) have as core purposes to:

42 (i) facilitate coordination of efforts to optimize the use of water by:

43 (A) sponsoring policy discussions about the state's water supply;

44 (B) engaging the private sector to help support efforts to optimize the use of water and
45 related activities;

46 (C) coordinating with the Department of Agriculture and Food and the Department of
47 Environmental Quality on water related issues;

48 (D) maintaining communication among partners in the partnership;

49 (E) providing a line of communication from partners to state leaders; and

50 (F) promoting coordination of grants, rebate programs, or sponsorships that support the
51 optimal use of water; and

52 (ii) encourage residents of the state to make changes to optimize the use of water and
53 care for the state's water supply by:

54 (A) providing public education and public awareness campaigns and helping
55 consolidate campaigns about the state's water supply, water quality, and water use; and

56 (B) providing residents of the state with tools to understand what can be done to
57 optimize the use of water; [~~and~~]

58 (c) consistent with Subsection (3)(b)(ii)(A), coordinate with the State Board of

59 Education to create standards-aligned resources and professional development opportunities to
60 be used in select grades in kindergarten through grade 12 of the public education system,
61 including:

62 (i) an overview of the water cycle;

63 (ii) an overview of Utah's water systems, including reference to watersheds, watershed
64 health, groundwater, river systems, and major water infrastructure;

65 (iii) an overview on how water is used in Utah, including in the residential,
66 agricultural, and industrial sectors;

67 (iv) strategies for individuals to protect water quality;

68 (v) strategies for individuals to optimize the use of water, and the reasons optimization
69 is needed; and

70 (vi) hands-on methods to help students learn the information described in this

71 Subsection (3)(c); and

72 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) seek grants, gifts, donations, devises, and bequests.

73 (4) The board of directors for the partnership shall:

74 (a) consist of 13 individuals as follows:

75 (i) the executive director of the department, or the executive director's designee;

76 (ii) the director of the Division of Water Resources, or the director's designee;

77 (iii) the executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality, or the
78 executive director's designee;

79 (iv) the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Food, or the
80 commissioner's designee;

81 (v) a representative of rural Utah selected jointly by the governor, the speaker of the
82 House of Representatives, and the president of the Senate;

83 (vi) the general managers for four water conservancy districts selected jointly by the
84 governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and the president of the Senate; and

85 (vii) four members of the business community selected jointly by the governor, the
86 speaker of the House of Representatives, and the president of the Senate;

87 (b) hire an executive director by August 1, 2023, who shall serve for an initial term of
88 four years; and

89 (c) adopt policies concerning the board of directors' internal organization and

90 procedures.

91 (5) The partnership may, consistent with this section, receive a grant, gift, donation,
92 devise, or bequest.

93 (6) The partnership shall annually report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and
94 Environment Interim Committee.

95 (7) Notwithstanding the creation of the partnership, a water supply entity may maintain
96 an important role with water supply users to encourage the optimized use of water such as
97 through localized messaging, rebate programs, or other activities.

98 Section 2. **Effective date.**

99 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.