

Representative Gay Lynn Bennion proposes the following substitute bill:

RIPARIAN AMENDMENTS

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Gay Lynn Bennion

Senate Sponsor: Scott D. Sandall

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses riparian areas.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ directs the creation of a state position related to riparian areas with a sunset date on the position;
- ▶ requires the division to publish information related to riparian areas; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

63I-1-273, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 205, 261

ENACTS:

73-10-39, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

Section 1. Section **63I-1-273** is amended to read:

63I-1-273. Repeal dates: Title 73.

(1) Title 73, Chapter 27, Legislative Water Development Commission, is repealed
January 1, 2031.

(2) Subsection 73-10-39(2), creating a position related to riparian areas, is repealed
July 1, 2029.

~~(3)~~ (3) Title 73, Chapter 10g, Part 2, Agricultural Water Optimization, is repealed
July 1, 2028.

~~(4)~~ (4) Section 73-18-3.5, which authorizes the Division of Outdoor Recreation to
appoint an advisory council that includes in the advisory council's duties advising on boating
policies, is repealed July 1, 2024.

~~(5)~~ (5) In relation to Title 73, Chapter 31, Water Banking Act, on December 31,
2030:

(a) Subsection 73-1-4(2)(e)(xi) is repealed;

(b) Subsection 73-10-4(1)(h) is repealed; and

(c) Title 73, Chapter 31, Water Banking Act, is repealed.

~~(6)~~ (6) Sections 73-32-302 and 73-32-303, related to the Great Salt Lake Advisory
Council, are repealed July 1, 2027.

Section 2. Section **73-10-39** is enacted to read:

73-10-39. Riparian areas efforts.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Division" means the Division of Water Resources.

(b) "Local government" means a county or municipality, as defined in Section
10-1-104.

(c) "Watershed council" means a council created under Chapter 10g, Part 3, Watershed
Councils Act.

(2) The Department of Natural Resources shall create a position that:

(a) coordinates with the division, the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, and
the Utah Geological Survey to provide expertise, specialized knowledge, and education and

57 outreach efforts with regard to the management and improvement of riparian areas;

58 (b) provides assistance to local governments who request assistance with regard to the
59 management and improvement of riparian areas;

60 (c) supports initiatives under Title 79, Chapter 2, Part 6, Watershed Restoration
61 Initiative, that benefit riparian areas;

62 (d) assists with projects related to tributaries to sovereign lands;

63 (e) facilitates efforts to create more resilience in riparian areas; and

64 (f) seeks discussions on the management and improvement of riparian areas with the
65 appropriate watershed council or councils.

66 (3) The division shall publish on a public website tools available for the management
67 or improvement of a riparian area, such as tools published by federal, state, or local
68 government agencies, including interlocal entities, and examples of local government efforts to
69 manage or improve riparian areas.

70 Section 3. **Effective date.**

71 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.