

# UTAH CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2026 General Legislative Session

Week 7

7 March, 2026

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### **2025 Legislative Update**

Each update provides key highlights for the prior week's General Legislative Session and what is expected for the week ahead. The focus of this update are the Utah state legislation and actions for protecting wildlife and the environment. Questions and comments can be directed to Dan Strauch: [strauchmail@yahoo.com](mailto:strauchmail@yahoo.com).

### **About the Legislative Update**

The *Legislative Update* is made possible by the Utah Audubon Council and contributing organizations. Each *Update* provides legislative actions, descriptions and updates throughout the Session and important dates and progress of key committees. For the most up-to-date information and for the names and contact information for legislators, check the Legislative website at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov). The *Update* focuses on legislative information pertaining to wildlife, sensitive and invasive species, public lands, state parks, SITLA land management, energy development, renewable energy and conservation and water issues. The *Update* is distributed after each Friday of the Session. Additional Action Alerts may also be distributed during the session. Please use this information to prepare you to contact your legislator with your opinions and concerns!

### **Week 7 Update**

Editing Note: I have added the word PASSED in the STATUS column for all bills that passed during the session and will become law in May. If a bill did not complete the process I left the STATUS column at its final progress.

The 2026 Utah State Legislative session ended this past Friday, 6 March 2026 at midnight. The last week was, as usual, very busy with a large number of bills moving through the second half of the legislative process and getting final votes. A significant number of bills that are passed do so in the last week.

From an environmental perspective this session was underwhelming. While several valuable Great Salt Lake, water management and wetland bills passed, none were dramatic changes to the current situation

Fortunately, Representative Jill Koford has accepted the responsibility for championing bills that address needs of the Great Salt Lake and general water conservation. Her bills that we supported:

[HB76 Data Center Water Transparency Amendments](#)

[HB348 Dedicated Water Amendments](#)

[HB410 Water Leasing Amendments](#)

All passed. Again, not major changes but steps in the right direction.

Unfortunately, most of the bills sponsored by Representative Doug Owens, an annual champion for smart environmental management and water conservation did not pass. These were:

HB154 Water Loss Study Amendments

HB155 Water Rates Amendments

HB285 Local Planning and Regulation Impacts on Wildlife Amendments

HB400 Landscaping Water Amendments

HB490 Water Optimization Reporting Amendments

HB494 Transfer of Water Interests

Representative Owens was able to get HB509 Wetland Study Amendments passed. However, it required significant compromise that greatly reduced the scope of the study. Still a positive and opportunity to continue to influence as the study is defined but key statute drivers were eliminated.

HB60 Water Rights Amendments sponsored by Representative David Shallenberger will need to be monitored. This was a strong OPPOSE as the session started, however, key amendments were made that addressed some of the initial concern. Those more knowledgeable of Utah water law affirm this bill will aid in getting water to the Great Salt Lake. The question remains open if the bill takes away opportunities to protest other water rights requests as a result.

## BILL TRACKING LIST

Position: Underline means initial position ... investigating further and position may change.

Bill	Sponsor	Description <i>Italics are UAC commentary/explanation</i> <i>Comments in orange are new/changed vs prior week.</i>	Topic	Status	Pri	Position
<a href="#">H.B. 60 – Water Rights Amendments</a>	Rep. David Shallenberger	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ addresses actions related to an application to appropriate public water;</li> <li>▶ modifies the extent to which the state engineer may consider a protest;</li> <li>▶ addresses temporary applications;</li> <li>▶ modifies the grounds that the state engineer may consider in approving or rejecting an application, including what the state engineer may consider related to public welfare;</li> <li>▶ clarifies who is an aggrieved person for purposes of seeking judicial review; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>During Senate committee several objections from the public. Sponsor continues to modify reasons for the bill based on that public comment. No change in position.</i></p> <p><i>Some mild concerns expressed by committee members. Strong public objection. Passed with two no votes. Supporters making strong argument that this is a bill that supports getting water to the GSL, which outside of government this bill is simply not read that way.</i></p> <p><i>This bill makes significant changes to the process by which the state engineer makes a determination on a water application. Essentially this bill:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- eliminates the requirement that the state engineer consider public recreation in the decision process.</li> <li>- makes it much more difficult for the public to track and protest any</li> </ul>	Water	1 <sup>st</sup> sub  <b>PASSED</b>  Passed Senate  To Governor	1	Oppose

		<p><i>water application changes.</i></p> <p><i>Per the Utah Constitution the waters of the state are for the people, but this bill eliminates the consideration of the people in a water application.</i></p>				
<a href="#">H.B. 76 – Data Center Water Policy Amendments</a>	Rep. Jill Koford	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ directs land use authorities to issue certain notices;</li> <li>▶ requires certain large data centers to communicate with water providers;</li> <li>▶ requires reporting by operators of certain data centers before construction and annually; ▶ addresses disclosure of the reported information; ▶ provides for enforcement mechanisms; ▶ addresses rulemaking; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments.</li> </ul> <p><i>How quickly this moves in the Senate and the discussion at Senate Committee will give strong indication of likelihood of success.</i></p> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> sub very positive changes ... reduced the size of data center required to report and also requires that the water estimate and use data be non-anonymized when published. Original bill anonymized the data when published.</i></p> <p><i>Utah Rivers Council recognized positive changes of 1<sup>st</sup> sub but pointed out that bill still allows for confidentiality agreements between companies and municipalities which could make water use non disclosable.</i></p>	Water	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Sub</p> <p><b>PASSED</b></p> <p>Senate Committee not considered</p>	2	Support
<a href="#">H.B. 154 – Water Loss Study Amendments</a>	Rep. Doug Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ requires the division to conduct a study regarding water loss;</li> <li>▶ requires the division to report the findings of the study;</li> <li>▶ imposes a repeal date; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments.</li> </ul> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> sub minimal impact to bill.</i></p>	Water	<p>1<sup>st</sup> sub</p> <p>Passed House</p> <p>To Senate committee</p>	3	Support

<a href="#">S.B. 130 – River Restoration Amendments</a>	Sen. Lincoln Fillmore	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ modifies how the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands (division) expends money related to a Jordan River improvement project, including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• allowing the division to expend money for an activity along the entire length of the Jordan River; and</li> <li>• requiring the division to consult with the Jordan River Commission before expending money for an improvement project;</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ creates a matching grant program for counties and municipalities to fund improvement projects that increase access to a recreational activity on the Jordan River;</li> <li>▶ directs funding from the Outdoor Adventure Infrastructure Restricted Account to the matching grant program; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> sub changes funding source to General Fund from Adventure Fund, questions whether there will be any appropriations.</i></p>	Water	1 <sup>st</sup> sub  <b>PASSED</b>  Passed Senate  House removed from committee	4	Support
<a href="#">H.B. 155 – Water Rates Amendments</a>	Rep. Doug Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ provides for increasing block units for residential water use in certain water rate structures;</li> <li>▶ addresses the purpose of increases in rates charged for additional blocks; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments.</li> </ul> <p><i>Unlikely to move forward.</i></p> <p><i>Allows for increase water rates for outdoor watering.</i></p>	Water	House 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	5	Support
<a href="#">S.B. 46 – Water Wise Landscaping Amendments</a>	Sen. Keven Stratton	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ imposes landscaping requirements related to state government facilities; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul>	Water	<b>PASSED</b>  To Governor	6	Support

<a href="#">H.B. 30 – Wildlife Management Area Amendments</a>	Rep. David Shallenberger	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ creates the Wildlife Management Area Stewardship Fund;</li> <li>▶ repeals language related to access to wildlife management areas requiring a hunting, fishing, or combination license;</li> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ requires that an individual meet certain conditions to access a wildlife management area; ▶ directs the Division of Wildlife Resources (division) to approve an educational video and provide digital verification of completion of the educational video;</li> <li>▶ provides for exceptions to the conditions to access a wildlife management area;</li> <li>▶ authorizes rulemaking and requires reporting regarding rulemaking;</li> <li>▶ provides for voluntary financial contributions for the benefit of wildlife management areas;</li> <li>▶ permits the division to oversee the provision of volunteer labor to benefit a wildlife management area, including addressing liability issues;</li> <li>▶ enacts nonrefundable tax credits for contributions to wildlife management areas in accordance with statute and rules;</li> <li>▶ addresses apportionment of a nonrefundable tax credit; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>This bill has been tabled on third reading. I believe there is some alignment to other bills in process. I expect his bill to pass.</i></p> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> sub eliminates the tax credit portion. I decided not to challenge the Wildlife Board make up as I did not see this inhibiting the bill. Having separate conversations with the sponsor on that aspect. Change to full Support.</i></p> <p><i>This bill adds requirement that all parties 18 and older must complete an on-line education course to receive a digital pass for access to a WMA. The requirement for "all parties" to obtain a pass has raised questions. Speaking to sponsors this requirement is meant to address users in groups that may not remain together, such as bikers or off road vehicles where allowed. Often those parties do not travel all together.</i></p>	Lands	1 <sup>st</sup> Sub <b>PASSED</b> Passed House Passed Senate committee Senate 3 <sup>rd</sup> reading Tabled	7	Support
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		<p><i>This bill modifies the WMA access requirements of HB309'25. That bill, HB309'25, also limited allowable participants on the Wildlife Board to individuals with hunting licenses, removing fishing only or non-consumptive members. I will take the opportunity to object to that change and request that be addressed as part of this bill as well.</i></p>				
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<a href="#">H.B. 187 – Water Amendments</a>	Rep. Colin Jack	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ exempts from provisions related to abandonment or forfeiture for non use certain water rights of a water conservancy district that are related to the lower basin;</li> <li>▶ prohibits certain instream flow change applications related to the lower basin; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments.</li> </ul> <p><i>Change to Support. Low priority. Bill is targeted to a specific dry county (Washington) to allow more flexibility in managing water resources.</i></p> <p><i>Would bar water rights holders from participating in in-stream flow incentives as streams in lower basin flow to other states.</i></p>	Water	2 <sup>nd</sup> sub  <b>PASSED</b>  Passed Senate committee  Passed Senate	8	Support
<a href="#">H.B. 348 – Dedicated Water Amendments</a>	Rep. Jill Koford	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ addresses provisions applicable to dedicated water applications;</li> <li>▶ prohibits segregation of an underlying water right from dedicated water;</li> <li>▶ addresses process for approval of instream flow and related actions;</li> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ provides for the filing and approval of a dedicated water application;</li> <li>▶ addresses land in agricultural use;</li> <li>▶ authorizes the state engineer to require certain reporting;</li> <li>▶ addresses lapsing of a dedicated water application; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments.</li> </ul> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> sub eliminates the state engineers fee for process applications.</i></p>	Water	1 <sup>st</sup> sub  <b>PASSED</b>  Passed House  Passed Senate committee  Senate 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading	9	Support
<a href="#">H.B. 410 – Water Leasing Amendments</a>	Rep. Jill Koford	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ makes appropriations to the Great Salt Lake Preservation Program (program) non lapsing;</li> <li>▶ addresses diversion or impoundment by an intervening user of leased water;</li> <li>▶ provides for streamlined leasing of certain water;</li> <li>▶ directs the Great Salt Lake commissioner to facilitate leasing of water for the Great Salt Lake;</li> <li>▶ creates the program;</li> </ul>	Water	1 <sup>st</sup> sub  <b>PASSED</b>  Passed House  Passed Senate committee	10	Support

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ creates the Great Salt Lake Preservation Board (board);</li> <li>▶ provides for rulemaking by the board;</li> <li>▶ establishes the leasing process;</li> <li>▶ addresses fixed time change applications related to a lease of water;</li> <li>▶ authorizes the board to take action if a person violates a lease;</li> <li>▶ requires reporting by the board and the state engineer;</li> <li>▶ enacts a sunset date; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments</li> </ul> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> sub ... minor positive changes.</i></p>		Senate 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading		
<a href="#">S.B. 225 – Utah Inland Port Authority Amendments</a>	Sen. Jerry Stevenson	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms and modifies definitions;</li> <li>▶ clarifies the process by which the Utah Inland Port Authority (authority) maintains an official boundary of the authority jurisdictional land;</li> <li>▶ provides that the description of a boundary of a project area created by the authority may include a legal description, parcel number, property identification number, or other method of description that accurately depicts the project area;</li> <li>▶ provides a process for the authority to make an adjustment to a project area boundary;</li> <li>▶ modifies the process by which a transition date and a trigger date are established for a parcel;</li> <li>▶ modifies a prohibition on the use of property tax differential as a business recruitment incentive for certain development within authority jurisdictional land that is in the capital city; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>2<sup>nd</sup> sub is mixed. It removes the 200,000 gallon per day limit in statute with explanation that only local governments can set those limits. It then does give authority to local municipalities to set limits.</i></p> <p><i>Significant public opposition during committee presentation however, passed committee easily with no NAY votes.</i></p>	Lands	2 <sup>nd</sup> sub  <b>PASSED</b>  Passed Senate committee  Passed Senate  Passed House committee  To Rules for fiscal note	11	Oppose

		<p><i>Highly likely this bill will pass. ACTION: advocate for a 200,000 gallon per day water limit at all UIPA project sights not just in SLC.</i></p> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> sub really only changes bill name to remove Utah Inland Port..</i></p>				
<a href="#">H.B. 461 – Tax Increment Financing Revisions</a>	Rep. Ray Ward	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ defines terms;</li> <li>▸ requires the boards of the Utah Inland Port Authority, the Point of the Mountain State Land Authority, the Utah Fairpark Area Investment and Restoration District, the Military Installation Development Authority, and the Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity, on behalf of the convention center reinvestment zones, to publish information related to tax increment revenue on a publicly accessible website; and</li> <li>▸ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>Will improve transparency of project impacts.</i></p>	UIPA	Fiscal note received	13	Support
<a href="#">S.B. 198 – Water Project Management Amendments</a>	Sen. Scott Sandall	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ defines terms;</li> <li>▸ creates the Office of Water Management (office) within the Division of Water Resources(division);</li> <li>▸ establishes the duties of the office;</li> <li>▸ provides for a water manager to administer the office;</li> <li>▸ establishes the role of the water manager;</li> <li>▸ requires the Division of Water Resources Board to create a process for a political subdivision, special district, or state agency to nominate a water project for management by the office;</li> <li>▸ requires the office to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•adopt a capital asset management plan; and</li> <li>•report to two legislative committees on the capital asset management plan no later than July 1, 2030, and every five years thereafter; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>▸ makes technical and conforming changes</li> </ul>	Water	HELD	14	Oppose

<a href="#">H.B. 509 – Wetlands Protection Modifications</a>	Rep. Doug Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ directs the Department of Natural Resources to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•complete a study on wetlands in the state;</li> <li>•make recommendations for legislative and administrative action on improving wetland health and mitigating wetland loss; and</li> <li>•report the study findings and recommendations to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>3<sup>rd</sup> sub unfortunately further limits the scope of the study and eliminates requirements for specific recommendations on improving water quality and means to mitigate wetlands loss.</i></p> <p><i>Proposes a study that will assess the impact of the Supreme Court Sackett decision on the designation of wetlands in Utah.</i></p> <p><i>2<sup>nd</sup> sub limits to the four big counties on the Wasatch front.</i></p>	Water	<p>3<sup>rd</sup> sub</p> <p>PASSED</p> <p>Passed House</p> <p>To Senate committee</p>	15	Support
<a href="#">S.B. 250 – Great Salt Lake Amendments</a>	Sen. Nate Blouin	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ modifies purposes for the Water Infrastructure Restricted Account in light of the reduction of money in the Water Infrastructure Restricted Account to fund the Great Salt Lake Account (account);</li> <li>▶ modifies the purposes for which account money may be used for the acquisition or lease of water or water rights related to the Great Salt Lake; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments.</li> </ul> <p><i>Senate committee Republican members raised a number of technical issues with the bill e.g., has not been through water committee reviews, GSL Commissioner or GSLWET were not part of meeting asking for funding, etc.</i></p>	GSL	<p>To Senate committee</p> <p>HELD</p>	16	Support
		<b>HOUSE BILLS</b>				
		<b>PRE-SESSION</b>				

<a href="#">H.B. 16 – Solar Power Plant Amendments</a>	Re. Colin Jack	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ establishes eligibility criteria for state incentives for solar power plants based on land characteristics;</li> <li>▶ provides for reduction of incentives for solar power plants located on certain protected farmland;</li> <li>▶ creates exemptions for solar power plants with existing agreements or incentives;</li> <li>▶ requires wildlife impact consultation with state or federal agencies for solar power plants;</li> <li>▶ establishes requirements for decommissioning plans and financial assurance for solar power plants;</li> <li>▶ creates a permitting process for solar power plants;</li> <li>▶ requires submission and approval of development plans for solar power plants; and</li> <li>▶ provides for severability.</li> </ul> <p><i>This bill modifies the state incentives paid for solar projects based on the type of land that the project will convert. Projects that will be on “prime farm land, farm land of statewide importance, farm land of local importance, or farm land of unique importance, as designated by the Natural Resource Conservation Service” will not be eligible for state level tax incentives. This bill does not prohibit such projects but only limits available incentives for new projects proposed after May 6, 2026.</i></p>	Solar	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PASSED</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed Senate To Governor</p>	L	Support
<a href="#">H.B. 18 – Public Land Access Amendments</a>	Rep. Nelson Abbott	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ repeals requirement that under certain circumstances an individual is required to hold authorization to hunt or fish to access wildlife management areas; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments.</li> </ul> <p><i>This bill eliminates the requirement for a hunting or fishing license for parties 18+ years to access a WMA. However, a new requirement is added in HB30’26 also detailed in this tracker.</i></p>	Lands	House 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	H	Support

<a href="#">H.B. 30 – Wildlife Management Area Amendments</a>	Rep. David Shallenberger	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ creates the Wildlife Management Area Stewardship Fund;</li> <li>▶ repeals language related to access to wildlife management areas requiring a hunting', fishing, or combination license;</li> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ requires that an individual meet certain conditions to access a wildlife management area; ▶ directs the Division of Wildlife Resources (division) to approve an educational video and provide digital verification of completion of the educational video;</li> <li>▶ provides for exceptions to the conditions to access a wildlife management area;</li> <li>▶ authorizes rulemaking and requires reporting regarding rulemaking;</li> <li>▶ provides for voluntary financial contributions for the benefit of wildlife management areas;</li> <li>▶ permits the division to oversee the provision of volunteer labor to benefit a wildlife management area, including addressing liability issues;</li> <li>▶ enacts nonrefundable tax credits for contributions to wildlife management areas in accordance with statute and rules;</li> <li>▶ addresses apportionment of a nonrefundable tax credit; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>This bill has been tabled on third reading. I believe there is some alignment to other bills in process. I expect his bill to pass.</i></p> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> sub eliminates the tax credit portion. I decided not to challenge the Wildlife Board make up as I did not see this inhibiting the bill. Having separate conversations with the sponsor on that aspect. Change to full Support.</i></p> <p><i>This bill adds requirement that all parties 18 and older must complete an on-line education course to receive a digital pass for access to a WMA. The requirement for "all parties" to obtain a pass has raised questions. Speaking to sponsors this requirement is meant to address users in groups that may not remain together, such as bikers or off road vehicles where allowed. Often those parties do not travel all together.</i></p>	Lands	1 <sup>st</sup> Sub <b>PASSED</b> Passed House Passed Senate committee Senate 3 <sup>rd</sup> reading TABLED	H	Support
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		<p><i>This bill modifies the WMA access requirements of HB309'25. That bill, HB309'25, also limited allowable participants on the Wildlife Board to individuals with hunting licenses, removing fishing only or non-consumptive members. I will take the opportunity to object to that change and request that be addressed as part of this bill as well.</i></p>				
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<a href="#">H.B. 60 – Water Rights Amendments</a>	Rep. David Shallenberger	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ addresses actions related to an application to appropriate public water;</li> <li>▶ modifies the extent to which the state engineer may consider a protest;</li> <li>▶ addresses temporary applications;</li> <li>▶ modifies the grounds that the state engineer may consider in approving or rejecting an application, including what the state engineer may consider related to public welfare;</li> <li>▶ clarifies who is an aggrieved person for purposes of seeking judicial review; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>During Senate committee several objections from the public. Sponsor continues to modify reasons for the bill based on that public comment. No change in position.</i></p> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> sub makes some positive concessions but overall the bill remains an OPPOSE.</i></p> <p><i>Some mild concerns expressed by committee members. Strong public objection. Passed with two no votes. Supporters making strong argument that this is a bill that supports getting water to the GSL, which outside of government this bill is simply not read that way.</i></p> <p><i>This bill makes significant changes to the process by which the state engineer makes a determination on a water application. Essentially this bill:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- eliminates the requirement that the state engineer consider public recreation in the decision process.</li> <li>- makes it much more difficult for the public to track and protest any water application changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>Per the Utah Constitution the waters of the state are for the people, but this bill eliminates the consideration of the people in a water application.</i></p>	Water	1 <sup>st</sup> sub  <b>PASSED</b>  Passed House  Passed Senate  To Governor	H	Oppose
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<a href="#">H.B. 63 – Livestock Watering Amendments</a>	Rep. Scott Chew	<p>his bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ provides for sub-basin livestock watering claims.</li> </ul>	Water	<p>Passed House</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PASSED</b></p> <p>Passed Senate committee</p> <p>Senate 3<sup>rd</sup> reading</p> <p>Tabled</p>	L	Support
<a href="#">H.B. 64 – School and Institutional Trust Lands Amendments</a>	Rep. Carl Albrecht	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ creates a process for a county to nominate a culturally or scientifically significant site located on school and institutional trust lands (trust lands) for potential preservation;</li> <li>▶ establishes requirements for the nomination of a proposed culturally or scientifically significant site; ▶ requires the director of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration(administration) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•notify a county with trust lands of the opportunity to nominate a culturally or scientifically significant site;</li> <li>•approve a nomination for a culturally or scientifically significant site if the director determines that the nomination is consistent with the established requirements; and</li> <li>•maintain and periodically review a list of approved culturally or scientifically significant sites;</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ allows the director of the administration to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•reject a nomination if the director determines the nomination is inconsistent with the established requirements; and</li> <li>•consider a preservation measure if the culturally or scientifically significant site is at risk; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul>	Lands	<p>Passed House</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Failed in Senate vote</p>	L	Support

<a href="#">H.B. 76 – Data Center Water Policy Amendments</a>	Rep. Jill Koford	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ directs land use authorities to issue certain notices;</li> <li>▶ requires certain large data centers to communicate with water providers;</li> <li>▶ requires reporting by operators of certain data centers before construction and annually; ▶ addresses disclosure of the reported information; ▶ provides for enforcement mechanisms; ▶ addresses rulemaking; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments.</li> </ul> <p><i>How quickly this moves in the Senate and the discussion at Senate Committee will give strong indication of likelihood of success.</i></p> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> sub very positive changes ... reduced the size of data center required to report and also requires that the water estimate and use data be non-anonymized when published. Original bill anonymized the data when published.</i></p> <p><i>Utah Rivers Council recognized positive changes of 1<sup>st</sup> sub but pointed out that bill still allows for confidentiality agreements between companies and municipalities which could make water use non disclosable.</i></p>	Water	1 <sup>st</sup> sub  <b>PASSED</b>  Passed House  To Senate committee  Not considered	H	Support
<a href="#">H.B. 78 – Nuclear Regulatory Amendments</a>	Rep. Carl Albrecht	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ establishes the Nuclear Energy Regulatory Office within the Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control;</li> <li>▶ grants rulemaking authority to the division for nuclear energy regulation;</li> <li>▶ authorizes establishment and collection of fees for nuclear energy licensing and oversight;</li> <li>▶ directs the division to pursue expanded Agreement State status with the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission;</li> <li>▶ authorizes the director to enter cooperative agreements with federal agencies; and</li> <li>▶ authorizes new positions for the Nuclear Energy Regulatory Office.</li> </ul> <p><i>No NAY votes on House floor.</i></p>	Nuclear	<b>PASSED</b>  Passed Senate Committee  Senate 3 <sup>rd</sup> reading  Tabled	L	Oppose

		<i>Early step in the process to build nuclear facilities and process nuclear waste. State needs more expertise in these areas before proceeding.</i>				
<a href="#">H.B. 93 – Goshen Bay Waterfowl Management Area</a>	Rep. Doug Welton	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ provides for the creation of the Goshen Bay Waterfowl Management Area; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments.</li> </ul>	Lands	<p><b>PASSED</b></p> <p>Passed House</p> <p>Passed Senate</p> <p>To Governor</p>	H	Support

<a href="#">H.B. 111 – Wildlife Amendments</a>	Rep. Bridger Bolinder	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ addresses who may provide verification of illness, injury, or disability in relationship to a license, certificate, or permit issued under the Wildlife Resources Act;</li> <li>▶ amends provisions related to notice of acquisition of real property;</li> <li>▶ provides for the management of grizzly bears;</li> <li>▶ grants rulemaking authority;</li> <li>▶ modifies when conservation easements held by the Division of Wildlife Resources maybe terminated;</li> <li>▶ addresses discharge of a dangerous weapon related to a waterfowl management area or wildlife management area; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments</li> </ul> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> sub eliminates the termination of easement capability. During discussion it was stated that the grizzly bear management language mirrors that for wolves.</i></p> <p><i>This bill allows for the termination of a conservation easement if "...the Division of Wildlife Resources determines that the conservation values of the conservation easement are no longer met..." however it is unclear what the criteria the DWR would use in making such a determination. It also sets compensation for acquisition of the land.</i></p> <p><i>This bill also directs the DWR to manage grizzly bears to prevent their establishment in any areas in the state as well as direct the removal of grizzly bears that are discovered. The bill gives authority to the Wildlife Board to set rules to manage grizzly bears. If passed need to follow this rule-making, concern this would be opportunity to institute a hunt.</i></p>	Wildlife	1 <sup>st</sup> sub Passed House Passed Senate committee Senate 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading	L	Oppose
<a href="#">H.B. 154 – Water Loss Study Amendments</a>	Rep. Doug Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ requires the division to conduct a study regarding water loss;</li> <li>▶ requires the division to report the findings of the study;</li> <li>▶ imposes a repeal date; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments.</li> </ul> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> sub minimal impact to bill.</i></p>	Water	1 <sup>st</sup> sub Passed Houe To Senate committee	H	Support

<a href="#">H.B. 155 – Water Rates Amendments</a>	Rep. Doug Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ provides for increasing block units for residential water use in certain water rate structures;</li> <li>▶ addresses the purpose of increases in rates charged for additional blocks; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments.</li> </ul> <p><i>Allows for increase water rates for outdoor watering.</i></p>	Water	House 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	H	Support
<a href="#">H.B. 157 – Department of Natural Resources Amendments</a>	Rep. Rex Shipp	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ removes language related to determining the work period for certain Department of Natural Resources’ employees;</li> <li>▶ transfers property, rights, interests, powers, and functions of the Provo-Jordan River Parkway Authority to the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands;</li> <li>▶ modifies provisions related to records kept by the Division of Water Rights, including to allow for the records to be kept in physical or electronic form; ▶ corrects citations;</li> <li>▶ removes a cap on low-interest loans related to secondary water metering;</li> <li>▶ clarifies rulemaking authority related to rules enforced by the Division of Law Enforcement;</li> <li>▶ modifies the duties of the Utah Geological Survey;</li> <li>▶ modifies the makeup of the Board of the Utah Geological Survey;</li> <li>▶ changes the term “buffalo” to “bison” in certain circumstances;</li> <li>▶ repeals section specifying funding sources of the Watershed Restoration Initiative;</li> <li>▶ repeals the Alternative Energy Development Tax Credit Act;</li> <li>▶ repeals outdated language related to the Provo-Jordan River Parkway Authority; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments.</li> </ul> <p><i>Further analysis, these are all technical/administrative changes. Change to SUPPORT but Low priority.</i></p> <p><i>Complex bill with many changes, need to monitor.</i></p>	Admin	3 <sup>rd</sup> sub  Passed House  Passed Senate committee  Senate 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading	L	Support

<a href="#">H.B. 187 – Water Amendments</a>	Rep. Colin Jack	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ exempts from provisions related to abandonment or forfeiture for non use certain water rights of a water conservancy district that are related to the lower basin;</li> <li>▶ prohibits certain instream flow change applications related to the lower basin; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments.</li> </ul> <p><i>Change to Support. Remains Low priority. Bill is targeted to a specific dry county (Washington) to allow more flexibility in managing water resources.</i></p> <p><i>Would bar water rights holders from participating in in-stream flow incentives as streams in lower basin flow to other states.</i></p>	Water	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> sub</p> <p><b>PASSED</b></p> <p>Passed House</p> <p>Passed Senate</p>	L	Support
<a href="#">H.B. 215 – Political Subdivision Landscaping Authority</a>	Rep. Thomas Peterson	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms; and</li> <li>▶ restricts a municipality or county from prohibiting a property owner from removing vegetation on property located in a wildland-urban interface area.</li> </ul> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> sub makes no substantial changes.</i></p> <p><i>I must have mis-read this initially. Switch to Oppose.</i></p>	Lands	<p>1<sup>st</sup> sub</p> <p><b>PASSED</b></p> <p>Passed Senate committee</p> <p>Passed Senate</p>	L	Oppose
<a href="#">H.B. 247 – Great Salt Lake Funding Amendments</a>	Rep. Raymond Ward	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ directs revenue generated by the brine shrimp tax to the Sovereign Lands Management Account instead of the Species Protection Account;</li> <li>▶ provides for how the revenue is to be spent; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> sub delays implementation to 2027 from 2026.</i></p> <p><i>Moves taxes from brine shrimp industry from the Species protection account and into the Sovereign Lands Management account. The bill directs all money collected to be used in benefit of the Great Salt Lake. While losing money from the SPA is not ideal since this is dedicated to the GSL will support.</i></p>	GSL	<p>1<sup>st</sup> sub</p> <p><b>PASSED</b></p> <p>Passed House</p> <p>Passed Senate committee</p> <p>Senate 2<sup>nd</sup> reading</p>	L	Support

-		<b>HOUSE BILLS WEEK 1</b>				
<a href="#">H.B. 285 – Land Use Planning Amendments</a>	Re. Doug Owens	This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ requires municipalities and counties to consider development impacts on wildlife in the process of considering and adopting general plans and land use regulations;</li> <li>▶ requires the Department of Natural Resources to provide information relevant to a municipalities or county’s consideration of the development impacts on wildlife; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul>	Lands	Fiscal Note received	H	Support
<a href="#">H.B. 296 – Water Commitment Amendments</a>	Rep. Hoang Nguyen	This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ permits a commitment of available water to uses on the Great Salt Lake to be included in a water conservation plan; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul>	GSL	<b>PASSED</b> Passed House Passed Senate	H	Support
<a href="#">H.B. 323 – Solar Panel Disposal Amendments</a>	Rep. Colin Jack	This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ mandates additional disclosure language by a solar retailer related to testing and disposal requirements of a solar panel;</li> <li>▶ authorizes the Waste Management and Radiation Control Board to make rules for:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•testing solar panel waste; and</li> <li>•disposing of solar panel waste;</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ creates the Solar Panel Waste Restricted Account;</li> <li>▶ requires a solar panel installer to register with the Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control (division); ▶ provides for the division to collect a registration fee and installation fee from a solar panel installer;</li> <li>▶ provides for the division to require an owner or operator of a solar panel, beginning on July 1, 2027, to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•complete a hazardous waste analysis on the solar panel before disposal; and</li> <li>•dispose of hazardous solar panel waste at a solar panel waste disposal site or solar panel waste recycling facility;</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ allows an operator of a landfill to submit an application to register</li> </ul>	Solar	2 <sup>nd</sup> sub <b>PASSED</b> Passed House To Senate committee	L	Oppose

		<p>with the division as a solar panel waste disposal site; ▶ establishes that the director of the division may enforce the solar panel waste requirements by bringing a civil action in a court;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ requires the division to report annually to two legislative committees; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>Given sponsor hard not to read as an effort to make solar power more difficult in the state.</i></p>				
<a href="#">H.B. 328 – Water Usage Modifications</a>	Rep. Clinton Okerlund	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ directs municipalities and counties to take certain actions related to land use regulation including providing notice of the prohibition on the use of overhead irrigation;</li> <li>▶ encourages municipalities and counties to take certain actions related to land use regulation; and</li> <li>▶ prohibits an owner of specified land who undertakes new development or redevelopment of specified land from using overhead irrigation under certain circumstances, with exceptions.</li> </ul> <p><i>Bill overall is a small step in limiting overhead sprinklers. 1<sup>st</sup> sub eliminates some mandatory compliance elements so diminishes the bill a bit.</i></p>	Water	<p>1<sup>st</sup> sub</p> <p>Passed House</p> <p>To Senate committee</p>	L	Support

<a href="#">H.B. 348 – Dedicated Water Amendments</a>	Rep. Jill Koford	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ addresses provisions applicable to dedicated water applications;</li> <li>▶ prohibits segregation of an underlying water right from dedicated water;</li> <li>▶ addresses process for approval of instream flow and related actions;</li> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ provides for the filing and approval of a dedicated water application;</li> <li>▶ addresses land in agricultural use;</li> <li>▶ authorizes the state engineer to require certain reporting;</li> <li>▶ addresses lapsing of a dedicated water application; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments.</li> </ul> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> sub eliminates the state engineers fee for process applications.</i></p>	Water	1 <sup>st</sup> sub  <b>PASSED</b>  Passed House  Passed Senate committee  Senate 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading	H	Support
<b>HOUSE BILLS WEEK 2</b>						
<a href="#">H.B. 367 – Solar Power Utility Amendments</a>	Rep. Raymond Ward	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ authorizes the Public Service Commission to establish an optional time-of-use export pricing tariff for net metering customers;</li> <li>▶ requires differential pricing for customer-generated electricity based on time of day or real-time market conditions;</li> <li>▶ establishes a minimum floor for export credits; and</li> <li>▶ provides customer protections including voluntary participation and retention of existing options.</li> </ul>	Solar	1 <sup>st</sup> sub  To House committee	L	Support
<a href="#">H.B. 371 – Grazing Permits Amendments</a>	Rep. Tiara Auxier	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ requires the director of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) to prioritize multiple use and sustained yield in the management of school and institutional trust lands (trust lands);</li> <li>▶ prohibits the director of SITLA from issuing permits for the non-use of trust lands if the trust lands may be used for grazing; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul>	Lands	Fiscal note received	L	Oppose

<a href="#">H.B. 376 – Land Management Funding Amendments</a>	Rep. Carl Albrecht	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ establishes the Utah Forest Restoration Institute (institute) in connection with Utah State University;</li> <li>▶ provides funding to the institute;</li> <li>▶ requires the institute to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•conduct research as provided by state and federal law;</li> <li>•study how the state can improve forest and watershed health;</li> <li>•recommend mitigation strategies that reduce the risks and impact of wildfire;</li> <li>•coordinate with the Watershed Restoration Initiative to fund watershed and forest restoration projects;</li> <li>•review and respond to, in a timely manner, an emergency request for funding a watershed restoration project in response to a natural disaster; and</li> <li>•monitor the long-term effectiveness of watershed and forest restoration projects;</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ requires the Watershed Restoration Initiative to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•coordinate funding decisions with the institute on partnership watershed restoration projects;</li> <li>•coordinate the long-term monitoring of a watershed restoration project with the institute;</li> <li>•collect data required by the institute;</li> <li>•provide research and learning opportunities for higher education students and faculty associated with the institute; and</li> <li>•submit an annual report to the institute and two legislative committees; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>Amendment changes some fiscal allocations.</i></p>	Lands	Amended  <b>PASSED</b>  Passed Senate committee  Senate 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading  Circled	H	Support
<a href="#">H.B. 400 – Landscaping Water Amendments</a>	Reg. Doug Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ directs a municipality or county to adopt, maintain, and enforce certain water efficient landscaping requirements related to new development;</li> <li>▶ permits a municipality or county to consider regional-based water use efficiency standards;</li> </ul>	Water	Passed House committee  House 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading  Circled	H	Support

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ addresses the Division of Water Resources keeping records, reporting compliance, and providing assistance related to the landscaping requirements; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>Directs municipalities in GSL basin to pass an ordinance that requires water efficient landscaping in new housing construction. Has no enforcement mechanism.</i></p>				
<a href="#">H.B. 401 – Geothermal Study Amendments</a>	Rep. Christine Watkins	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ directs the Office of Energy Development (office) to conduct a study to examine the feasibility of developing geothermal energy facilities at or near existing coal-powered electrical generation facilities;</li> <li>▶ requires the office to report annually on or before the November interim meeting to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee;</li> <li>▶ requires the office to publish the study on the office’s website upon completion; and</li> <li>▶ provides a repeal date.</li> </ul>	Energy	<p><b>PASSED</b></p> <p>Passed House</p> <p>Passed Senate committee</p> <p>Senate 2<sup>nd</sup> reading</p>	L	Support
<a href="#">H.B. 410 – Water Leasing Amendments</a>	Rep. Jill Koford	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ makes appropriations to the Great Salt Lake Preservation Program (program) non lapsing;</li> <li>▶ addresses diversion or impoundment by an intervening user of leased water;</li> <li>▶ provides for streamlined leasing of certain water;</li> <li>▶ directs the Great Salt Lake commissioner to facilitate leasing of water for the Great Salt Lake;</li> <li>▶ creates the program;</li> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ creates the Great Salt Lake Preservation Board (board);</li> <li>▶ provides for rulemaking by the board;</li> <li>▶ establishes the leasing process;</li> <li>▶ addresses fixed time change applications related to a lease of water;</li> <li>▶ authorizes the board to take action if a person violates a lease;</li> <li>▶ requires reporting by the board and the state engineer;</li> <li>▶ enacts a sunset date; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments</li> </ul>	Water	<p>1<sup>st</sup> sub</p> <p><b>PASSED</b></p> <p>Passed House</p> <p>Passed Senate committee</p> <p>Senate 2<sup>nd</sup> reading</p>	H	Support

		<i>1<sup>st</sup> sub ... minor positive changes.</i>				
<a href="#">H.B. 412 – Energy Development Planning Amendments</a>	Rep. Doug Owens	This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ requires consultation with the Division of Wildlife Resources (division) as part of local government approval of utility scale solar and wind power plant projects;</li> <li>▶ specifies consultation requirements; and</li> <li>▶ provides rulemaking authority to the division.</li> </ul>	Lands	<b>PASSED</b> Passed House Passed Senate committee Senate 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading	H	Support
<a href="#">H.B. 431 – Wildlife Crossing Amendments</a>	Rep. Scott Chew	This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ sets aside funding in the Transportation Investment Fund of 2005 for projects that improve wildlife safety and connectivity and livestock safety;</li> <li>▶ directs the Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Division of Wildlife, to recommend projects to the Transportation Commission for prioritization; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical changes.</li> </ul>	Lands	<b>PASSED</b> Passed House	L	Support
<a href="#">H.B. 437 – Environmental Permitting Amendments</a>	Rep. David Shallenberger	This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ authorizes the Department of Environmental Quality (department) and Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (division) to make rules to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify a permit administered by the department or division as a permit eligible for expedited review;</li> <li>• establish requirements for the expedited review process;</li> <li>• certify a qualified reviewer;</li> <li>• authorize a qualified reviewer to complete an expedited review of an eligible permit; and</li> <li>• establish the maximum number of a days for a qualified reviewer to complete an expedited review;</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ requires the department and division to conduct a technical review and make a final administrative decision for a permit application upon completion of an expedited review; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul>	Mining	<b>PASSED</b> Passed House committee Passed House Passed Senate committee Senate 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading	L	Support

		<p><i>Appears to allow Department to train external resources to review permits prior to submission. Applicant would pay for this external review. Does not impact public comment opportunities.</i></p> <p><i>Move to Support but remains LOW on priority.</i></p>				
<a href="#">H.B. 439 – Water Planning Amendments</a>	Rep. David Shallenberger	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines and modifies terms;</li> <li>▶ provides that the state engineer may grant a non-use application for a qualified entity’s water right;</li> <li>▶ requires counties, municipalities, and special districts to adopt a written plan for determining the reasonable future water requirement of the public before imposing a water exaction;</li> <li>▶ requires the state engineer to make rules to establish standards for the written plan; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>Subs make no significant changes to overall impact of bill.</i></p>	Water	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> sub</p> <p>Passed House</p> <p>To Senate committee</p>	L	Support
<a href="#">H.B. 444 – State Land Access Road Amendments</a>	Rep. Troy Shelley	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ provides an expedited deadline for the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office and the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration to identify certain roads located on school and institutional trust lands and state lands and to record with the relevant county recorder’s office notice of the roads relevant to state lands and school and institutional trust lands;</li> <li>▶ provides a process necessary for a county and the state to abandon a class D road;</li> <li>▶ requires public meetings and notice before abandonment of a class D road;</li> <li>▶ ensures that existing easements and access rights for public utilities and water infrastructure are not impacted by the abandonment of a class D road;</li> <li>▶ amends provisions related to the closure of a class D road due to lack of public use to include roads across property owned by a public entity or an institution of higher education; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical changes.</li> </ul>	Lands	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> Sub</p> <p>Passed House</p> <p>Passed Senate committee</p>	L	Support
		<b>HOUSE BILLS WEEK 3</b>				

<a href="#">H.B. 461 – Tax Increment Financing Revisions</a>	Rep. Ray Ward	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ requires the boards of the Utah Inland Port Authority, the Point of the Mountain State Land Authority, the Utah Fairpark Area Investment and Restoration District, the Military Installation Development Authority, and the Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity, on behalf of the convention center reinvestment zones, to publish information related to tax increment revenue on a publicly accessible website; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>Will improve transparency of project impacts.</i></p>	UIPA	Fiscal note received	H	Support
<a href="#">H.B. 473 – Colorado River Authority Amendments</a>	Rep. Scott Chew	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ moves the Colorado River Authority of Utah (authority) from the governor’s office to the Department of Natural Resources, including providing a transition;</li> <li>▶ modifies the definition provision;</li> <li>▶ amends the membership provision of the authority including modifying the appointment process;</li> <li>▶ addresses the operation of the authority;</li> <li>▶ expands the powers and duties of the authority;</li> <li>▶ modifies the appointment of the river commissioner;</li> <li>▶ repeals provision prohibiting the river commissioner from receiving compensation;</li> <li>▶ amends provision on hiring of the authority’s executive director; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments.</li> </ul> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> sub makes no changes that alter position.</i></p> <p><i>Allows the authority to work to implement the Utah Water Agent objectives.</i></p>	Water	<p>1<sup>st</sup> sub</p> <p><b>PASSED</b></p> <p>Passed House</p> <p>Passed Senate committee</p> <p>Senate 2<sup>nd</sup> reading</p>	H	Oppose
<a href="#">H.B. 490 – Water Optimization Reporting Amendments</a>	Rep. Doug Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ requires the Division of Water Resources, in coordination with the Division of Water Rights, to study water diversions classified as an agricultural diversion to determine:</li> </ul>	Water	<p>HELD</p> <p>House Committee</p>	H	Support

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•the number, type, and volume of diversions currently classified as an agricultural diversion; and</li> <li>•the volume of water diverted from an agricultural diversion for non-agricultural use; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ requires the Division of Water Resources to report the results of the study to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee before November 30, 2026; and</li> <li>▸ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Rep. Owens admitted this bill still needs some work and support. Expect it to be withdrawn.</i></p>				
<a href="#">H.B. 501 – Water Modifications</a>	Rep. Bridger Bollinder	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ exempts a water fee from certain rate setting requirements for municipalities and public water systems;</li> <li>▸ defines terms;</li> <li>▸ makes legislative findings;</li> <li>▸ directs modification of contracts that do not comply with metering and usage-based billing requirements;</li> <li>▸ requires certain notices to secondary water suppliers regarding transfer of real property;</li> <li>▸ allows for the imposition of penalties;</li> <li>▸ requires the collection of certain local contribution amounts for water infrastructure as a condition of receiving state money;</li> <li>▸ requires local entities to collect certain local contribution amounts for drinking water and wastewater by a date certain;</li> <li>▸ addresses the exemption of secondary water from certain fees;</li> <li>▸ modifies a reporting requirement; and</li> <li>▸ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> sub clarifies that all money collected with this tax stay with the local water companies. Also, then requires that local government collect these tax fees before requesting additional funding from state</i></p> <p><i>Does not require local taxing but will limit state funding if tax is not collected.</i></p>	Water	2 <sup>nd</sup> sub  Passed House  To Senate committee	L	Oppose

		<i>Tax on culinary water only not secondary or agricultural.</i>				
<a href="#">H.B. 509 – Wetlands Protection Modifications</a>	Rep. Doug Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ directs the Department of Natural Resources to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•complete a study on wetlands in the state;</li> <li>•make recommendations for legislative and administrative action on improving wetland health and mitigating wetland loss; and</li> <li>•report the study findings and recommendations to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>3<sup>rd</sup> sub unfortunately further limits the scope of the study and eliminates requirements for specific recommendations on improving water quality and means to mitigate wetlands loss.</i></p> <p><i>Proposes a study that will assess the impact of the Supreme Court Sackett decision on the designation of wetlands in Utah.</i></p> <p><i>2<sup>nd</sup> sub limits to the four big counties on the Wasatch front.</i></p>	Water	<p>3<sup>rd</sup> sub</p> <p>PASSED</p> <p>Passed House</p> <p>Passed Senate committee</p>	H	Support
		<b>HOUSE BILLS WEEK 4</b>				
<a href="#">H.B. 523 -- Homeless Services Land Use Amendments</a>	Rep. Casey Snider	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines "large-scale, low-barrier shelter";</li> <li>▶ repeals eminent domain of unincorporated city owned land;</li> <li>▶ prohibits the Office of Homeless Services from expending existing or future state appropriations to establish a large-scale, low-barrier shelter; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>Difficult to assess the true intent behind this bill. Categorize as a Support at this point but Low priority. Anything to delay the homeless shelter is a positive but this opens door for backroom negotiations that could end up benefitting the few.</i></p>	GSL	Fiscal Note	L	Support
<a href="#">H.B. 533 -- Groundwater Amendments</a>	Rep. Mike Kohler	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ requires land use authorities to consider groundwater issues in approving a land use application or issuing a land use permit;</li> </ul>	Water	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> sub</p> <p>To House committee</p>	L	Support

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ addresses what may be considered related to groundwater preservation; and</li> <li>▶ requires the Utah Geological Survey to provide information.</li> </ul>		Held		
<a href="#">H.B. 546 -- Public Lands Duty of Care Amendments</a>	Rep. Ken Ivory	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ asserts the state's jurisdictional interest in land controlled by the federal government under a proprietary interest;</li> <li>▶ directs the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (office) to promote the state's jurisdictional interests on landscape-scale public lands;</li> <li>▶ requires the office to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify and map landscape-scale lands in the state;</li> <li>• establish map layers for certain criteria on landscape-scale lands;</li> <li>• map a landscape public nuisance area on landscape-scale lands containing forested areas; and</li> <li>• report annually on the map to the Federalism Commission;</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ requires the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands to assist the office in identifying a landscape public nuisance area for landscape-scale lands containing forested areas; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>Another effort to assert state control over federal lands. Not sure it would withstand legal challenge.</i></p>	Land	<b>PASSED</b> Passed House To Senate committee	H	Oppose
<a href="#">H.B. 564 -- Pollution Standards Amendments</a>	Rep. Andrew Stoddard	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms; and</li> <li>▶ establishes a total annual emissions limit for PM2.5 and nitrogen oxides from point sources in certain counties.</li> </ul>	Air	To House committee	H	Support
<b>HOUSE BILLS WEEK 5</b>						
<a href="#">H.B. 585 -- Data Center Amendments</a>	Rep Rosalba Dominguez	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ requires large data centers to report energy use to electrical corporations;</li> <li>▶ requires electrical corporations to report to the Public Service Commission;</li> <li>▶ requires the commission to report to the Legislature; and</li> <li>▶ provides enforcement mechanisms.</li> </ul>	Energy	To House committee	L	Support

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS						
<a href="#">H.C.R. 1 - - House Concurrent Resolution Regarding Advanced Nuclear Manufacturing</a>	Rep. Carl Albrecht	<p>This resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ expresses Utah's support for the advanced nuclear industry;</li> <li>▸ expresses Utah's desire to have nuclear manufacturing done in Utah;</li> <li>▸ expresses Utah's commitment to helping technology companies overcome challenges regarding safety in manufacturing, transportation, and waste management; and</li> <li>▸ signals that Utah is committed to fostering the development of technical solutions to remaining challenges.</li> </ul>	Nuclear	<b>PASSED</b>  Signed by Governor	H	Oppose
<a href="#">H.C.R. 5 - - House Concurrent Resolution on State Management of Federal Public Lands</a>	Rep. Steve Eliason	<p>This resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ highlights the need to develop and maintain state parks, monuments, and campgrounds to provide the people of Utah with outdoor recreational opportunities;</li> <li>▸ suggests land that the Division of State Parks (division) may consider for a potential state park, state monument, or state campground;</li> <li>▸ encourages the division to work with federal agencies to acquire, lease, or manage properties considered suitable for use as a state park, monument, or campground;</li> <li>▸ urges Congress to establish a framework for state operation of federal public lands, under a joint management agreement, to improve public land management and reduce federal expenditures;</li> <li>▸ requests that the division petition the Bureau of Land Management to transfer land to the state for the creation of the Little Sahara State Park;</li> <li>▸ requests that the division negotiate with the United States Forest Service to transfer the Antelope Flat Campground to the state for the creation of the Flaming Gorge State Park ;and</li> <li>▸ requests that the division update the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee on the division's study regarding new state parks and state campgrounds.</li> </ul> <p><i>Need to monitor, could be a mechanism for state to manage federal properties like National Parks or National Forests.</i></p>	Lands	To House committee	H	<u>Oppose</u>
<b>SENATE BILLS</b>						

		<b>PRE-SESSION</b>				
<a href="#">S.B. 20 - - Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Technical Changes</a>	Sen. Keven Stratton	This bill: primarily repeals outdated language but clarifies procedure for the Great Salt Lake Commissioner to submit a strategic plan by October 1st of each year.	GSL	<b>PASSED</b>  Passed House  To Governor	L	Support
<a href="#">S.B. 21 - - Geothermal Amendments</a>	Sen. Michael McKell	This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ clarifies the purposes of the geothermal chapter;</li> <li>▶ addresses definitions;</li> <li>▶ modifies provisions related to ownership of geothermal resources or fluids;</li> <li>▶ amends powers of the Division of Water Rights related to confidentiality of information;</li> <li>▶ addresses bonding requirements; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming amendments.</li> </ul>	Geothermal	3 <sup>rd</sup> sub  <b>PASSED</b>  Passed Senate  Passed House committee  House 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading	L	Support
<a href="#">S.B. 23 - - Airborne Chemicals Amendments</a>	Sen. Ronald Winterton	This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ establishes that the release of a chemical or substance from an aircraft for the purpose of solar geoengineering is a third-degree felony;</li> <li>▶ provides a means for a person to submit information regarding suspected solar geoengineering;</li> <li>▶ requires the Department of Transportation to report credible instances of suspected solar geoengineering to the Office of the Attorney General;</li> <li>▶ requires an airport operator to report suspected solar geoengineering activity to the Department of Transportation; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul>	Air	Failed in Senate committee	L	Support

<a href="#">S.B. 46 - - Water Wise Landscaping Amendments</a>	Sen. Keven Stratton	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ imposes landscaping requirements related to state government facilities; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul>	Water	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PASSED</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">To Governor</p>	H	Support
<a href="#">S.B. 53 - - Public Land Management Advisory Board Amendments</a>	Sen. Karen Kwan	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ adds as a member of the Public Land Management Advisory Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•the state historic preservation officer or the officer's designee; and</li> <li>•the director of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration or the director's designee; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul>	Lands	Failed on Senate Floor	L	Support
<a href="#">S.B. 130 - - River Restoration Amendments</a>	Sen. Lincoln Fillmore	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ modifies how the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands (division) expends money related to a Jordan River improvement project, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•allowing the division to expend money for an activity along the entire length of the Jordan River; and</li> <li>•requiring the division to consult with the Jordan River Commission before expending money for an improvement project;</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ creates a matching grant program for counties and municipalities to fund improvement projects that increase access to a recreational activity on the Jordan River;</li> <li>▶ directs funding from the Outdoor Adventure Infrastructure Restricted Account to the matching grant program; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>1st sub changes funding source to General Fund from Adventure Fund, questions whether there will be any appropriations.</i></p>	Water	<p style="text-align: center;">1<sup>st</sup> sub</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PASSED</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Passed Senate</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Returned to House for fiscal impact</p>	L	Support

<a href="#">S.B. 135 - - Nuclear Reprocessing Amendments</a>	Sen. Derrin Owens	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ creates the Utah Nuclear Fuel Recycling Program;</li> <li>▶ directs the Nuclear Energy Consortium (consortium) to administer the Utah Nuclear Fuel Recycling Program;</li> <li>▶ requires the consortium to coordinate with federal agencies, national laboratories, and private entities to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a nuclear fuel recycling facility in the state;</li> <li>▶ requires the consortium to conduct a feasibility study and site evaluation;</li> <li>▶ requires the consortium to implement a public outreach and education program; and ▶</li> </ul> <p>requires the consortium to report findings and recommendations to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee.</p> <p><i>2<sup>nd</sup> sub actually adds to bills authority to move this process forward</i></p> <p><i>HEAL Utah spoke extensively against this bill.</i></p> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> sub is a completely new bill. Does not change position.</i></p> <p><i>This has never been done successfully even on a national level.</i></p>	Nuclear	2 <sup>nd</sup> sub  <b>PASSED</b>  Passed House committee  HELD for Fiscal Note	H	Oppose
<b>SENATE BILLS WEEK 1</b>						
<a href="#">S.B. 176 - - Landscaping Procurement Amendments</a>	Sen. Stephanie Pitcher	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms; and</li> <li>▶ subject to specified exceptions, requires that when a state entity procures landscape maintenance equipment, the landscape maintenance equipment be electric-powered</li> </ul> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> sub does not significantly impact intent and benefit of bill.</i></p>	Air	1 <sup>st</sup> sub  Passed Senate  To House committee	H	Support
<b>SENATE BILLS WEEK 2</b>						

<a href="#">S.B. 198 - - Water Project Management Amendments</a>	Sen. Scott Sandall	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms;</li> <li>▶ creates the Office of Water Management (office) within the Division of Water Resources (division);</li> <li>▶ establishes the duties of the office;</li> <li>▶ provides for a water manager to administer the office;</li> <li>▶ establishes the role of the water manager;</li> <li>▶ requires the Division of Water Resources Board to create a process for a political subdivision, special district, or state agency to nominate a water project for management by the office;</li> <li>▶ requires the office to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adopt a capital asset management plan; and</li> <li>• report to two legislative committees on the capital asset management plan no later than July 1, 2030, and every five years thereafter; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes</li> </ul> <p><i>Reading of this bill creates a significant new office in the state for water development projects. Was HELD as the bill has not gone through the usual review process. Will continue to watch.</i></p>	Water	HELD	H	Oppose
<a href="#">S.B. 225 -- Utah Inland Port Authority Amendments</a>	Sen. Jerry Stevenson	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ defines terms and modifies definitions;</li> <li>▶ clarifies the process by which the Utah Inland Port Authority (authority) maintains an official boundary of the authority jurisdictional land;</li> <li>▶ provides that the description of a boundary of a project area created by the authority may include a legal description, parcel number, property identification number, or other method of description that accurately depicts the project area;</li> <li>▶ provides a process for the authority to make an adjustment to a project area boundary;</li> <li>▶ modifies the process by which a transition date and a trigger date are established for a parcel;</li> <li>▶ modifies a prohibition on the use of property tax differential as a business recruitment incentive for certain development within authority jurisdictional land that is in the capital city; and</li> <li>▶ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul>	Lands	2 <sup>nd</sup> sub  PASSED  Passed Senate  Passed House committee  Fiscal Note required	H	Oppose

		<p><i>2<sup>nd</sup> sub actually eliminates the 200,000 gal per day water use limit even in SLC. Essentially leaves water limits up to local municipalities.</i></p> <p><i>Significant public opposition during committee presentation however, passed committee easily with no NAY votes.</i></p> <p><i>Highly likely this bill will pass. ACTION: advocate for a 200,000 gallon per day water limit at all UIPA project sights not just in SLC.</i></p> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> sub really only changes bill name to remove Utah Inland Port..</i></p>				
		<b>SENATE BILLS WEEK 3</b>				
<a href="#">S.B. 250 -- Great Salt Lake Amendments</a>	Sen. Nate Blouin	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ modifies purposes for the Water Infrastructure Restricted Account in light of the reduction of money in the Water Infrastructure Restricted Account to fund the Great Salt Lake Account (account);</li> <li>▸ modifies the purposes for which account money may be used for the acquisition or lease of water or water rights related to the Great Salt Lake; and</li> <li>▸ makes technical and conforming amendments.</li> </ul> <p><i>Senate committee Republican members raised a number of technical issues with the bill e.g., has not been through water committee reviews, GSL Commissioner or GSLWET were not part of meeting asking for funding, etc.</i></p>	GSL	To Senate committee  HELD	H	Support
<a href="#">S.B. 252 -- Water Usage at State-owned Facilities Amendments</a>	Sen. Stephanie Pitcher	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ requires a state agency to take certain actions related to irrigation and use of low-water turf;</li> <li>▸ directs the Division of Facilities Construction and Management to audit irrigation systems;</li> <li>▸ authorizes rulemaking; and</li> <li>▸ makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul>	Water	1 <sup>st</sup> sub  PASSED  Passed Senate committee  Senate 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading	L	Support
		<b>SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS</b>				

<a href="#">S.C.R. 1 - - Concurrent Resolution Regarding Nuclear Energy</a>	Sen. Darrin Owens	<p>This resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ highlights Utah's support for nuclear energy development and deployment; and</li> <li>▶ expresses Utah's intent to pursue agreement state status for additional elements of the nuclear fuel cycle.</li> </ul>	Nuclear	<p><b>PASSED</b></p> <p>Passed Senate</p> <p>To House committee</p>	H	Oppose
<a href="#">S.C.R. 3 - - Concurrent Resolution Regarding Nuclear Weapons Testing</a>	Sen. Kathleen Riebe	<p>This resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ urges the government of the United States to not resume explosive nuclear weapons testing.</li> </ul>	Nuclear	Failed on Senate Floor	L	Support
<a href="#">S.C.R. 4 - - Concurrent Resolution Regarding Permitting of Oil, Gas, and Mining</a>	Sen. Ronald Winterton	<p>This resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ discusses the intent to enter into and the benefits of a memorandum of agreement (MOA)with the BLM;</li> <li>▶ supports the drafting of an MOA to formalize an enhanced cooperative and consultative relationship with the BLM; ▶ affirms the authority for the BLM to enter into such an MOA;</li> <li>▶ urges the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining to immediately initiate negotiations with the BLM to formalize the MOA; ▶ recognizes benefits of the MOA; and</li> <li>▶ recognizes that the final MOA must explicitly state that the Secretary of the Interior or the authorized officer of the BLM retains the ultimate, non-delegable authority and final decision-making authority over the issuance of federal leases and permits.</li> </ul>	Lands	<p><b>PASSED</b></p> <p>Passed Senate</p> <p>Passed House</p> <p>To Governor</p>	H	Oppose