

SECONDARY WATER METERING AMENDMENTS

2022 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Val L. Peterson

Senate Sponsor: Michael K. McKell

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses secondary water metering.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ addresses definitions;
- ▶ imposes requirements related to metering pressurized secondary water;
- ▶ provides for penalties for failure to comply with metering requirements;
- ▶ provides for grants to fund metering of certain pressurized secondary water services;
- ▶ addresses rulemaking authority; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

73-10-34, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 354

ENACTS:

73-10-34.5, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

29 Section 1. Section **73-10-34** is amended to read:

30 **73-10-34. Secondary water metering -- Loans and grants.**

31 (1) As used in this section:

32 (a) (i) "Commercial user" means a secondary water user that is a place of business.

33 (ii) "Commercial user" does not include a multi-family residence, an agricultural user,
34 or a customer that falls within the industrial or institutional classification.

35 (b) "Full metering" means that use of secondary water is accurately metered by a meter
36 that is installed and maintained on every secondary water connection of a secondary water
37 supplier.

38 [~~(b)~~] (c) (i) "Industrial user" means a secondary water user that manufactures or
39 produces materials.

40 (ii) "Industrial user" includes a manufacturing plant, an oil and gas producer, and a
41 mining company.

42 [~~(c)~~] (d) (i) "Institutional user" means a secondary water user that is dedicated to public
43 service, regardless of ownership.

44 (ii) "Institutional user" includes a school, church, hospital, park, golf course, and
45 government facility.

46 [~~(d)~~] (e) (i) "Residential user" means a secondary water user in a residence.

47 (ii) "Residential user" includes a single-family or multi-family home, apartment,
48 duplex, twin home, condominium, or planned community.

49 [~~(e)~~] (f) "Secondary water" means water that is:

50 (i) not culinary or water used on land assessed under Title 59, Chapter 2, Part 5,
51 Farmland Assessment Act; and

52 (ii) delivered to and used by an end user for the irrigation of landscaping or a garden.

53 (g) "Secondary water connection" means the location at which the water leaves the
54 secondary water supplier's pipeline and enters into the remainder of the pipes that are owned by
55 another person to supply water to an end user.

56 [~~(f)~~] (h) "Secondary water supplier" means an entity that supplies pressurized
57 secondary water.

58 [~~(g)~~] (i) "Small secondary water retail supplier" means an entity that:

59 (i) supplies pressurized secondary water only to the end user of the secondary water;
60 and

61 (ii) (A) is a city, town, or metro township; or

62 (B) supplies 5,000 or fewer secondary water connections.

63 (2) (a) (i) A secondary water supplier that supplies secondary water within a county of
64 the first or second class and begins design work for new service on or after April 1, 2020, to a
65 commercial, industrial, institutional, or residential user shall meter the use of pressurized
66 secondary water by the users receiving that new service.

67 (ii) A secondary water supplier that supplies secondary water within a county of the
68 third, fourth, fifth, or sixth class and begins design work for new service on or after May 4,
69 2022, to a commercial, industrial, institutional, or residential user shall meter the use of
70 pressurized secondary water by the users receiving that new service.

71 (b) By no later than January 1, 2030, a secondary water supplier shall install and
72 maintain a meter of the use of pressurized secondary water by each user receiving secondary
73 water service from the secondary water supplier.

74 [~~(b)~~] (c) Beginning January 1, 2022, a secondary water supplier shall establish a meter
75 installation reserve for metering installation and replacement projects.

76 [~~(c)~~] (d) A secondary water supplier, including a small secondary water retail supplier,
77 may not raise the rates charged for secondary water:

78 (i) by more than 10% in a calendar year for costs associated with metering secondary
79 water unless the rise in rates is necessary because the secondary water supplier experiences a
80 catastrophic failure or other similar event; or

81 (ii) unless, before raising the rates on the end user, the entity charging the end user
82 provides a statement explaining the basis for why the needs of the secondary water supplier
83 required an increase in rates.

84 [~~(d)~~] (e) (i) A secondary water supplier that provides pressurized secondary water to a
85 commercial, industrial, institutional, or residential user shall develop a plan, or if the secondary
86 water supplier previously filed a similar plan, update the plan for metering the use of the
87 pressurized water.

88 (ii) The plan required by this Subsection [~~(2)(d)~~] (2)(e) shall be filed or updated with
89 the Division of Water Resources by no later than December 31, 2025, and address the process

90 the secondary water supplier will follow to implement metering, including:

91 (A) the costs of full metering by the secondary water supplier;

92 (B) how long it would take the secondary water supplier to complete full metering [~~by~~
93 ~~no later than December 31, 2040~~], including an anticipated beginning date and completion
94 date, except a secondary water supplier shall achieve full metering by no later than January 1,
95 2030; and

96 (C) how the secondary water supplier will finance metering.

97 (3) A secondary water supplier shall on or before March 31 of each year, report to the
98 Division of Water Rights:

99 (a) for commercial, industrial, institutional, and residential users whose pressurized
100 secondary water use is metered, the number of acre feet of pressurized secondary water the
101 secondary water supplier supplied to the commercial, industrial, institutional, and residential
102 users during the preceding 12-month period;

103 (b) the number of secondary water meters within the secondary water supplier's service
104 boundary;

105 (c) a description of the secondary water supplier's service boundary;

106 (d) the number of secondary water connections in each of the following categories
107 through which the secondary water supplier supplies pressurized secondary water:

108 (i) commercial;

109 (ii) industrial;

110 (iii) institutional; and

111 (iv) residential;

112 (e) the total volume of water that the secondary water supplier receives from the
113 secondary water supplier's sources; and

114 (f) the dates of service during the preceding 12-month period in which the secondary
115 water supplier supplied pressurized secondary water.

116 (4) (a) Beginning July 1, 2019, the Board of Water Resources may make up to
117 \$10,000,000 in low-interest loans available each year:

118 (i) from the Water Resources Conservation and Development Fund, created in Section
119 [73-10-24](#); and

120 (ii) for financing the cost of secondary water metering.

121 (b) The Division of Water Resources and the Board of Water Resources shall make
122 rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act,
123 establishing the criteria and process for receiving a loan described in this Subsection (4), except
124 the rules may not include prepayment penalties.

125 (5) (a) Beginning July 1, 2021, subject to appropriation, the Division of Water
126 Resources may make matching grants each year for financing the cost of secondary water
127 metering for a commercial, industrial, institutional, or residential user by a small secondary
128 water retail supplier that:

- 129 (i) is not for new service described in Subsection (2)(a); and
- 130 (ii) matches the amount of the grant.

131 (b) For purposes of issuing grants under this section, the division shall prioritize the
132 small secondary water retail suppliers that can demonstrate the greatest need or greatest
133 inability to pay the entire cost of installing secondary water meters.

134 (c) The amount of a grant under this Subsection (5) may not:

- 135 (i) exceed 50% of the small secondary water retail supplier's cost of installing
136 secondary water meters; or
- 137 (ii) supplant federal, state, or local money previously allocated to pay the small
138 secondary water retail supplier's cost of installing secondary water meters.

139 (d) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
140 Board of Water Resources shall make rules establishing:

- 141 (i) the procedure for applying for a grant under this Subsection (5); and
- 142 (ii) how a small secondary water retail supplier can establish that the small secondary
143 water retail supplier meets the eligibility requirements of this Subsection (5).

144 [~~(6) This section does not apply to a secondary water supplier to the extent that:~~]

145 [~~(a) the secondary water supplier supplies secondary water within a county of the third,
146 fourth, fifth, or sixth class; or]~~

147 [~~(b) there is no meter that a meter manufacturer will warranty because of the water
148 quality within a specific location.]~~

149 [~~(7)~~] (6) Nothing in this section affects a water right holder's obligation to measure and
150 report water usage as described in Sections 73-5-4 and 73-5-8.

151 (7) If a secondary water supplier fails to comply with Subsection (2)(b), the secondary

152 water supplier:

153 (a) beginning January 1, 2030, may not receive state money for any purpose until the
154 secondary water supplier completes full metering; and

155 (b) is subject to an enforcement action of the state engineer in accordance with
156 Subsection (8).

157 (8) (a) (i) The state engineer shall commence an enforcement action under this
158 Subsection (8) if the state engineer receives a referral from the director of the Division of
159 Water Resources.

160 (ii) The director of the Division of Water Resources shall submit a referral to the state
161 engineer if the director:

162 (A) finds that a secondary water supplier fails to fully meter secondary water as
163 required by this section; and

164 (B) determines an enforcement action is necessary to conserve or protect a water
165 resource in the state.

166 (b) To commence an enforcement action under this Subsection (8), the state engineer
167 shall issue a notice of violation that includes notice of the administrative fine to which a
168 secondary water supplier is subject.

169 (c) The state engineer's issuance and enforcement of a notice of violation is exempt
170 from Title 63G, Chapter 4, Administrative Procedures Act.

171 (d) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
172 state engineer shall make rules necessary to enforce a notice of violation, that includes:

173 (i) provisions consistent with this Subsection (8) for enforcement of the notice if a
174 secondary water supplier to whom a notice is issued fails to respond to the notice or abate the
175 violation;

176 (ii) the right to a hearing, upon request by a secondary water supplier against whom the
177 notice is issued; and

178 (iii) provisions for timely issuance of a final order after the secondary water supplier to
179 whom the notice is issued fails to respond to the notice or abate the violation, or after a hearing
180 held under Subsection (8)(d)(ii).

181 (e) A person may not intervene in an enforcement action commenced under this
182 section.

183 (f) After issuance of a final order under rules made pursuant to Subsection (8)(d), the
184 state engineer shall serve a copy of the final order on the secondary water supplier against
185 whom the order is issued by:

186 (i) personal service under Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 5; or

187 (ii) certified mail.

188 (g) (i) The state engineer's final order may be reviewed by trial de novo by the district
189 court in Salt Lake County or the county where the violation occurred.

190 (ii) A secondary water supplier shall file a petition for judicial review of the state
191 engineer's final order issued under this section within 20 days from the day on which the final
192 order was served on the secondary water supplier.

193 (h) The state engineer may bring suit in a court of competent jurisdiction to enforce a
194 final order issued under this Subsection (8).

195 (i) If the state engineer prevails in an action brought under Subsection (8)(g) or (h), the
196 state may recover court costs and a reasonable attorney fee.

197 (j) As part of a final order issued under this Subsection (8), the state engineer shall
198 order that a secondary water supplier to whom an order is issued pay an administrative fine
199 equal to:

200 (i) \$10 for each secondary water connection of the secondary water supplier for failure
201 to comply with full metering by January 1, 2030;

202 (ii) \$20 for each secondary water connection of the secondary water supplier for failure
203 to comply with full metering by January 1, 2031;

204 (iii) \$30 for each secondary water connection of the secondary water supplier for
205 failure to comply with full metering by January 1, 2032;

206 (iv) \$40 for each secondary water connection of the secondary water supplier for
207 failure to comply with full metering by January 1, 2033; and

208 (v) \$50 for each secondary water connection of the secondary water supplier for failure
209 to comply with full metering by January 1, 2034, and for each subsequent year the secondary
210 water supplier fails to comply with full metering.

211 (k) Money collected under this Subsection (8) shall be deposited into the Water
212 Resources Conservation and Development Fund, created in Section [73-10-24](#).

213 (9) This section does not apply to a secondary water supplier to the extent that the

214 secondary water supplier:

215 (a) is unable to obtain a meter that a meter manufacturer will warranty because of the
216 water quality within a specific location served by the secondary water supplier; and

217 (b) submits reasonable proof to the Division of Water Resources that the secondary
218 water supplier is unable to obtain a meter as described in Subsection (9)(a).

219 Section 2. Section **73-10-34.5** is enacted to read:

220 **73-10-34.5. Grant money for existing secondary water metering to facilitate full**
221 **metering.**

222 (1) As used in this section:

223 (a) "Applicant" means a secondary water supplier or group of secondary water
224 suppliers that applies for a grant under this section.

225 (b) "Board" means the Board of Water Resources.

226 (c) "Division" means the Division of Water Resources.

227 (d) "Project" means the purchase or installation of a meter for a secondary water
228 system that as of May 4, 2022, provides secondary water service that is not metered.

229 (e) "Secondary water" means the same as that term is defined in Section [73-10-34](#).

230 (f) "Secondary water connection" means the same as that term is defined in Section
231 [73-10-34](#).

232 (g) "Secondary water supplier" means the same as that term is defined in Section
233 [73-10-34](#).

234 (2) (a) The board may issue grants in an amount appropriated by the Legislature in
235 accordance with this section to an applicant to fund projects for meters on secondary water
236 systems that before May 4, 2022, provide secondary water service that is not metered.

237 (b) The board may not issue a grant under this section to fund:

238 (i) metering of secondary water for service that begins on or after May 4, 2022; or

239 (ii) the replacement or repair of an existing secondary water meter.

240 (c) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, the board may issue a grant
241 under this section to a secondary water supplier to reimburse the secondary water supplier for
242 the costs incurred by the secondary water supplier that are associated with installing meters on
243 a secondary water system on or after March 3, 2021, but before May 4, 2022, except that the
244 grant issued under this Subsection (2)(c):

245 (i) shall be included in calculating the total grant amount under Subsections (3)(a)
246 through (c);

247 (ii) may not exceed 70% of the costs associated with a project described in this
248 Subsection (2)(c), including installation or purchase of meters; and

249 (iii) shall comply with Subsection (6).

250 (3) (a) A secondary water supplier with 7,000 secondary water connections or less is
251 eligible for a total grant amount under this section of up to \$5,000,000.

252 (b) A secondary water supplier with more than 7,000 secondary water connections is
253 eligible for a total grant amount under this section of up to \$10,000,000.

254 (c) If a secondary water supplier applies for a grant as part of a group of secondary
255 water suppliers, the total grant amount described in Subsection (3)(a) or (b) applies to each
256 member of the group and is not based on the number of secondary water connections of the
257 entire group.

258 (d) (i) Subject to the other provisions of this section, a grant may not exceed the
259 following amounts for the costs associated with a project, including installation or purchase of
260 meters:

261 (A) for calendar year 2022, 70% of the costs of a project;

262 (B) for calendar year 2023, 70% of the costs of a project;

263 (C) for calendar year 2024, 65% of the costs of a project;

264 (D) for calendar year 2025, 60% of the costs of a project; and

265 (E) for calendar year 2026, 50% of the costs of a project.

266 (ii) Beginning with calendar year 2027, a grant under this section shall consist of
267 providing a meter or funding to obtain a meter, which may not exceed the following for costs
268 associated with the project:

269 (A) for calendar year 2027, 40% of the costs of a project;

270 (B) for calendar year 2028, 30% of the costs of a project;

271 (C) for calendar year 2029, 20% of the costs of a project; and

272 (D) for calendar year 2030, 10% of the costs of a project.

273 (e) A secondary water supplier may pay the secondary water supplier's portion of the
274 costs of a project through a loan from the board under Section [73-10-34](#) by filing a separate
275 application with the board.

276 (f) The costs associated with a project may include costs to allow open source and real
277 time data communication between a meter and other device designed to manage use of
278 secondary water, such as a sprinkler timer.

279 (4) (a) (i) To obtain a grant under this section, an applicant shall submit an application
280 with the division during a period of time designated by the board.

281 (ii) If there remains money described in Subsection (2) after the grants for applications
282 submitted during the time period described in Subsection (4)(a) are awarded, the board may
283 designate one or more additional time periods so that the entire amount described in Subsection
284 (2) is awarded by December 31, 2024.

285 (b) An application submitted to the division shall include:

286 (i) a detailed project cost estimate including meter costs and installation costs;

287 (ii) a total number of pressurized secondary water connections in the applicable
288 secondary water supplier's system;

289 (iii) the number of meters to be installed under the grant;

290 (iv) a detailed estimated secondary water use reduction including:

291 (A) average lot size calculations;

292 (B) average irrigated acreage; and

293 (C) estimated water applied before the project versus after completion of the project;

294 (v) the timeline for purchase and installation of meters under the project;

295 (vi) a stamp and signature of a professional engineer who is:

296 (A) licensed under Title 58, Chapter 22, Professional Engineers and Professional Land
297 Surveyors Licensing Act; and

298 (B) responsible for the work of the project;

299 (vii) an agreement to:

300 (A) provide an educational component for end users as determined by the division by
301 rule made in accordance with Title 63G, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, either on a
302 monthly statement or by a customer specific Internet portal that provides information on the
303 customer's usage more frequently than monthly; or

304 (B) bill according to usage using a tiered conservation rate and provide an educational
305 component described in Subsection (4)(b)(vii)(A); and

306 (viii) additional information the board considers helpful.

307 (5) (a) The division shall:

308 (i) review and prioritize an application submitted under Subsection (4); and

309 (ii) recommend to the board which applicants should be awarded a grant under this
310 section.

311 (b) In prioritizing applications under this Subsection (5), the division shall rank the
312 applicants on the basis of the following weighted factors:

313 (i) 60% weight based on the ratio of estimated water use reduction divided by total
314 state investment;

315 (ii) 20% weight based on an applicant facing current or potential water shortages when
316 installation of meters and subsequent water use reductions will result in delaying or eliminating
317 the need for new water development; and

318 (iii) 20% weight based on a project's accelerated construction schedule, prompt start,
319 and prompt finish.

320 (6) As a condition of receiving a grant under this section, the recipient shall enter into
321 an agreement with the board to use the grant money. The agreement shall:

322 (a) be executed by no later than December 31, 2024; and

323 (b) require that the grant money be spent by December 31, 2026, and the project
324 completed under the terms of the grant.

325 (7) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, and
326 consistent with this section, the board may make rules establishing the procedure for applying
327 for a grant under this section.