



# WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## **FOR THE WEEK ENDING ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025**

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### **INFORMATION**

*Today is the 40th day of the 57th Legislature, 1st Regular Session.*

- The last day for bills to be heard in the chamber of origin is today, February 21.
- The last day for bill consideration in committee is Friday, March 28.

### **POSTED COMMITTEE HEARINGS**

- **Senate Natural Resources - Not meeting next week**
  - N/A
- **House NREW - Not meeting next week**
  - N/A

### **BILL SUMMARIES**

*The following bills were reviewed internally for impacts to the Department and the State's water resources. If the Department has taken a position on a bill, it will be noted. (The following list of bills is not a comprehensive list of bills ADWR Legislative Affairs is tracking.)*

### **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**HB 2056** - geoengineering; prohibition

**Sponsor:** Rep. Lisa Fink (R)

**Summary:** Prohibits any person, including government agencies, research projects, universities, organizations, and military forces, from engaging in geoengineering activities in Arizona. Requires ADEQ to investigate credible reports of geoengineering and initiate emergency measures if necessary to determine whether geoengineering has occurred. Establishes a mandatory public reporting process for evidence of geoengineering and assigns penalties, including a class 4 (lower mid-level) felony and civil fines of at least \$500,000 per violation, with each day of violation considered a separate offense. Statute regulating weather control and cloud modification is repealed.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 3, 2025 - Further referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2073](#) - watersheds; beneficial use; instream flows

**Sponsor:** Rep. Stacey Travers (D)

**Summary:** Authorizes the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to acquire and lease surface water rights for watershed health and instream uses and allows monies in the State Lottery Fund to be used for this purpose. Requires ADWR to assess and report on the health of watersheds across the state every three years.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 13, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2087](#) - appropriation; groundwater recharge facilities; maintenance

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Appropriates an unspecified amount from the state general fund in FY2025-26 to an unspecified department to clean and restore artificial groundwater recharge facilities.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** Scheduled for House Appropriations hearing - Feb 24, 2025 10:00AM

[HB 2088](#) - subsequent AMA; director; removal

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Requires the Director of ADWR to review areas included in subsequent active management areas (AMAs) to determine whether they still meet the criteria for such designation. If an area no longer meets these criteria, the Director may remove the AMA designation. Establishes procedures for public hearings regarding the removal of AMA designations.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 10, 2025 - Transmit to Senate

[HB 2089](#) - subsequent AMA; voters; removal

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Modifies procedures for designating and removing subsequent active management areas (AMAs) for groundwater basins. After 10 years, registered voters residing in a designated subsequent AMA may file petitions to remove its designation. The county board of supervisors is required to forward petitions to the Director of the Department of Water Resources, who must examine groundwater conditions and either declare the AMA necessary or allow for an election to decide its removal. Election procedures and responsibilities for costs are outlined, including conditions for multi-county AMAs.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 11, 2025 - Transmit to Senate

[HB 2103](#) - appropriation; Colorado River Compact, defense

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Appropriates \$1 million from the state general fund in FY2025-26 to the Department of Water Resources to defend Arizona's allocation of Colorado River water under the Colorado River Compact of 1922.

**Position:** Support

**Last Action:** February 12, 2025 - Transmit to Senate

[HB 2162](#) - reporting; groundwater pumping; measuring

**Sponsor:** Rep. Quantá Crews (D)

**Summary:** A person who withdraws ten or fewer acre-feet of groundwater per year from a nonexempt well for a non-irrigation use is not required to use a water measuring device to measure withdrawals from that well. A person who withdraws groundwater from a nonexempt well for an irrigation use is not required to use a water measuring device to measure withdrawals from that well if the groundwater is used only on land owned by a person who has the right to irrigate ten or fewer contiguous acres at the place of use, and is not used on land that is part of an integrated farming operation.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 15, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2202](#) - subsequent AMA; previously nonirrigated land

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Allows irrigation in subsequent active management areas for land that was not previously irrigated if the land is adjacent to a previously irrigated parcel, and the irrigation would not cause the person to exceed the groundwater volume allowed by the irrigation grandfathered rights. Retroactive to August 30, 2022.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 11, 2025 - Transmit to Senate

[HB 2203](#) - historical water use; subsequent AMA

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** For irrigated land to receive grandfathered irrigation rights when the land become part of a subsequent active management area (AMA), the land must have been legally irrigated at any time during the ten years, increased from five years, preceding the date of the notice of the initiation of designation procedures for the AMA. The calculations for the amount of grandfathered irrigation rights are also changed to refer to the previous ten years instead of five years. Retroactive to August 30, 2022.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 11, 2025 - Transmit to Senate

[HB 2204](#) - assured water supply; commingling

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** When determining an assured water supply, the Director of ADWR is allowed to consider only the proposed source(s) of water dedicated to a specific use, even if the supply is distributed through a commingled system. The ADWR Director is prohibited from requiring a subdivider applying for a certificate of assured water supply or commitment of water service to procure or dedicate more water than 100 percent of the amount needed for the subdivider's proposed use.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 14, 2025 - Passed House Natural Resources, Energy & Water with amendment

[HB 2246](#) - appropriation; irrigation grandfathered rights; retirement

**Sponsor:** Rep. Christopher Mathis (D)

**Summary:** Appropriates \$50 million from the Long-Term Water Augmentation Fund in FY2025-26 to ADWR to compensate holders of irrigation grandfathered rights for permanently retiring or reducing their water usage. Requires ADWR to begin purchasing and retiring these rights by December 31, 2025.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 26, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water / Appropriations

[HB 2248](#) - well drilling application; location; GPS

**Sponsor:** Rep. Christopher Mathis (D)

**Summary:** Requires the inclusion of Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates of the location of the well to be included in the notice of intention to drill a well.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 26, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2253](#) - water efficient plumbing fixtures

**Sponsor:** Rep. Christopher Mathis (D)

**Summary:** Prohibits, beginning January 1, 2027, the sale, distribution, or installation of plumbing fixtures in new or existing residential, commercial, industrial, or public construction unless the fixture is a WaterSense-labeled fixture or meets or exceeds the water efficiency criteria established before January 1, 2027 by the WaterSense program. Some exceptions. Effective January 1, 2027.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 26, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2258](#) - groundwater replenishment; qualification; subbasin

**Sponsor:** Rep. Christopher Mathis (D)

**Summary:** Multi-county water conservation districts are authorized to determine if new real property or service areas do not qualify as member land or member service areas. Beginning January 1, 2030, groundwater replenishment for member lands or service areas must occur within the same subbasin where groundwater is withdrawn.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 26, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2270](#) - groundwater model; stormwater recharge; AMAs

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Requires ADWR to adopt updated rules for groundwater modeling in Active Management Areas (AMAs). The updated rules must account for stormwater recharge from new or existing infrastructure. ADWR is required to update the groundwater model for AMAs annually to reflect new recharge data.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 20, 2025 - Transmit to Senate

[HB 2271](#) - supply and demand; assessment; groundwater

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Establishes a list of information that the director of ADWR must include in the five-year supply and demand assessment for all groundwater basins.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 20, 2025 - Passed House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2272](#) - municipal separate storm sewer system

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Deletes the definition of "county" in statute authorizing counties operating regulated small municipal separate storm sewer systems to adopt and enforce ordinances, rules, or regulations necessary to comply with the federal Clean Water Act or Arizona statutes.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 20, 2025 - House COW passed amended

[HB 2274](#) - technical correction; assured water supply

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Striker - *water improvement district; Willcox basin*

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 18, 2025 - Passed House Natural Resources, Energy & Water w/ amendment

[HB 2297](#) - designation; assured water supply; offset

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** For a new application for a designation of assured water supply in an active management area (AMA), the Director of ADWR is required to deem groundwater and stored water recovered outside the area of impact as physically available when determining assured water supply designations under specified conditions. Establishes calculation methods for volumes of groundwater and stored water in such designations and limits their inclusion in AMAs. Authorizes modifications to assured water supply

designations, provided additional water supplies meet specified criteria. Specifies financial capability requirements for applicants, including construction or funding of adequate delivery, storage, and treatment facilities. Restricts the use of extinguishment credits to subdivisions specified in the application.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 14, 2025 - Passed House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2298](#) - technical correction; management goals; AMAs

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Striker - *physical availability exemption credit; groundwater*

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 20, 2025 - Passed House Natural Resources, Energy & Water w/ amendment

[HB 2299](#) - assured water supply; certificate; model

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Requires ADWR to review applications for certificates of assured water supply in the Phoenix Active Management Area submitted between January 26, 2021, and May 31, 2023, that were denied or not yet granted as of the effective date. Requires determinations to be based on specific groundwater flow models or financial data submitted by the applicants. Eligible applicants must request reviews within 90 days.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 14, 2025 - Passed House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2408](#) - DWR; compact call; curtailment; appropriation

**Sponsor:** Rep. Alexander Kolodin (R)

**Summary:** Authorizes the Director of ADWR to initiate actions to protect and enforce Arizona's rights under the Colorado River Compact of 1922, including curtailment proceedings. Appropriates \$1 million from the Long-Term Water Augmentation Fund in FY2024-25 to ADWR for this purpose.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 22, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water / Appropriations

[HB 2412](#) - augmentation; Phoenix; Pinal; Tucson; AMA

**Sponsor:** Rep. Alexander Kolodin (R)

**Summary:** Authorizes the use of monies in the Long-Term Water Augmentation Fund to fund projects that create new water sources within Arizona and to purchase new water created within Arizona or rights to that water. Requires at least 75 percent of Fund monies to be allocated for water development projects benefiting end users in the Phoenix, Pinal, and Tucson Active Management Areas.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 22, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2413](#) - effluent; proportional share; recharge; compensation

**Sponsor:** Rep. Alexander Kolodin (R)

**Summary:** Requires municipal water providers operating within active management areas (AMAs) with a groundwater management goal of safe yield to compensate eligible customers for a proportional share of the full market value of effluent produced from wastewater that is not recharged into the customers' AMA. Eligible customers may challenge proportional share determinations via a complaint to the Director of ADWR or a private right of action in state court. If ADWR or a court finds that a municipal provider undercompensated a customer, the provider is liable for damages, attorney fees, and interest.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 14, 2025 - Held in House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2414](#) - remedial groundwater incentives; PFAS

**Sponsor:** Rep. Alexander Kolodin (R)

**Summary:** The Director of ADWR may annually deem up to 65,000 acre-feet of remedial groundwater withdrawn under approved remediation projects as consistent with active management area goals. Excludes small annual withdrawals (250 acre-feet or less) from assured water supply calculations and replenishment obligations. Requires separate metering and reporting for remedial groundwater and sets conditions for usage notices to ADWR. Requires ADWR to begin accepting applications within 90 days after the effective date of this legislation for the remedial groundwater program established by this legislation.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 14, 2025 - Held in House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2415](#) - basin-fill aquifers; groundwater; correlative rights

**Sponsor:** Rep. Alexander Kolodin (R)

**Summary:** Allows landowners with irrigation grandfathered rights in active management areas to permanently retire irrigated land and retain a physical availability credit. This credit permits the withdrawal or receipt of groundwater for non-irrigation use under specified conditions. Establishes criteria for calculating the allowable groundwater withdrawal and its application for assured water supply certificates or designations. The Director is required to include such groundwater calculations in determining physical availability and consistency with management goals.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 22, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2477](#) - state lands; leases; groundwater use

**Sponsor:** Rep. Stephanie Stahl Hamilton (D)

**Summary:** The State Land Department (SLD) is required to establish by rule an annual groundwater withdrawal fee for lessees of state land that is agricultural land located outside of an active management area or an irrigation non-expansion area. Requires lessees to annually report to SLD information about the location of the well, quantity of groundwater withdrawn, and specific uses of the groundwater.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 26, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2478](#) - subsequent irrigation; non-expansion areas; procedures

**Sponsor:** Rep. Stephanie Stahl Hamilton (D)

**Summary:** Establishes requirements for signers of a petition to designate a subsequent irrigation non-expansion area. A petition must be submitted within one year after the county recorder issues it to the petitioners, and must be accompanied by a hydrologic report and numeric groundwater flow model. A decision by ADWR that a petition does not comply with these requirements is an appealable agency action under the Administrative Procedures Act.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 26, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2479](#) - subsequent active management areas; designation

**Sponsor:** Rep. Stephanie Stahl Hamilton (D)

**Summary:** The Director of ADWR is required, instead of allowed, to designate an area not currently within an active management area as a subsequent active management area if it meets specified criteria.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 26, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2480](#) - watershed health; use; survey

**Sponsor:** Rep. Stephanie Stahl Hamilton (D)

**Summary:** By December 31, 2027, ADWR is required to publish a preliminary survey of the status of waters in Arizona, including watershed health and recommended statutory changes. By December 31 every three years after the initial preliminary survey of groundwater basins already required in statute, ADWR is required to issue a report that includes an assessment of the overall health of each watershed in Arizona.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 26, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2481](#) - adequate water supply; statewide requirements

**Sponsor:** Rep. Stephanie Stahl Hamilton (D)

**Summary:** Counties and municipalities can only approve a subdivision if the subdivider has obtained either a water report from ADWR that there is an adequate water supply for the subdivision or a written commitment of water service for the subdivision from a municipal or private water company designated as having an adequate water supply. The State Real Estate Commissioner can only issue a public report authorizing the sale or lease of subdivided lands if either ADWR has issued a water report that there is an adequate water supply for the subdivision or the subdivider has a written commitment of water service for the subdivision from a municipal or private water company designated as having an adequate water supply. Statutes authorizing exemptions from adequate water supply requirements are repealed.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 26, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2485](#) - land division; application; attestation

**Sponsor:** Rep. Christopher Mathis (D)

**Summary:** Requires additional disclosures and attestations from applicants when applying for land divisions or minor lot splits. Applicants for a land division must disclose ownership interests in the property and any divisions within the last ten years. Applications must also include an attestation acknowledging compliance with state subdivision laws and understanding public report requirements if intending to sell or lease subdivided parcels. Also, an applicant for a building permit for a single-family residential home within a subdivision is required to include an approved public report if the property owner owns six or more properties in the parent parcel or is a subdivider and intends to create a subdivision.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 26, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2487](#) - multifamily property; water; certificate

**Sponsor:** Rep. Christopher Mathis (D)

**Summary:** Requires individuals or entities seeking building permits for six or more detached single-family residences, multifamily residential properties, or condominiums in active management areas to obtain a certificate of assured water supply or a written commitment of water service from a designated provider before submitting permit applications, except for applications submitted on or before September 30, 2024. Multi-county water conservation districts are required to levy a one-time activation fee for residential lease communities and condominiums constructed in active management areas enrolled after January 1, 2026.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 26, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2548](#) - subsequent AMA; designation; petition; election

**Sponsor:** Rep. Lupe Diaz (R)

**Summary:** Requires voter approval in a local election before designating a groundwater basin as a subsequent active management area. Specifies procedures for public hearings, petitions, and elections to establish or expand active management areas. The Director of ADWR cannot designate a basin as an active management area without majority voter approval. Retroactive to December 19, 2024.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 20, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2549](#) - appropriation; subsequent AMA; assistance grants

**Sponsor:** Rep. Lupe Diaz (R)

**Summary:** Appropriates \$3 million from the state general fund in FY2025-26 to the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona for financial assistance grants to landowners in groundwater basins

designated as subsequent active management areas. The grants can be used to challenge the designation of such areas or the management goals set by ADWR.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 28, 2025 - Held in House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2550](#) - department of water resources; review

**Sponsor:** Rep. Lupe Diaz (R)

**Summary:** ADWR terminates on July 1, 2026, instead of July 1, 2028.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 20, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2551](#) - grandfathered right; Willcox AMA; extension

**Sponsor:** Rep. Lupe Diaz (R)

**Summary:** Extends the application period for individuals claiming a grandfathered groundwater right in the Willcox Active Management Area to 21 months after the area's designation. Retroactive to January 8, 2025.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 10, 2025 - Transmit to Senate

[HB 2567](#) - replenishment obligation; one hundred-year period

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Allows multi-county water conservation districts to acquire, hold, exchange, own, lease, or purchase sufficient water or rights to fulfill its expected replenishment obligation for the next 100 years.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 20, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2568](#) - conservation requirements; industrial water use

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** By January 1, 2026, ADWR is required to include conservation requirements for certain industrial water uses in active management area management plans. Applies to facilities using over 100 acre-feet of water per year that are not currently subject to specific conservation measures beyond efficiency improvement plans. Prohibits management plans from requiring industrial users to obtain assured water supply certificates, develop within certain municipal provider areas, or meet replenishment obligations.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 14, 2025 - Passed House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2569](#) - certificate; residential lease community; water

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Before applying for a building permit for residential dwellings located in a community with six or more detached single-family residences within an active management area where any portion of the Central Arizona Project aqueduct is located, an applicant is required to get a certificate of assured water supply from ADWR or a written agreement for water service from a municipality or water company designated as having an assured water supply. Counties and municipalities cannot approve building permits that have not complied with this requirement. Does not apply to applications submitted on or before September 30, 2025. Multi-county water conservation districts are required to levy a onetime activation fee against each housing unit to be constructed within residential lease communities within member lands and member service areas that are enrolled on or after January 1, 2025.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 20, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2570](#) - temporary non-expansion area

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Establishes procedures for designating temporary non-expansion areas for groundwater use outside active management or irrigation non-expansion areas. Requires elections to confirm designation of temporary non-expansion areas and restricts irrigation and groundwater withdrawal to historic levels for ten years. Limits irrigation within these areas to land irrigated in the prior ten years. Prohibits drilling new wells in such areas except for specific exemptions, including replacement wells and recovery wells. Requires ADWR to review and report on groundwater levels after ten years.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 10, 2025 - Transmit to Senate

[HB 2571](#) - stormwater infrastructure; groundwater recharge; credit

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Authorizes individuals and entities to earn physical availability credits for developing stormwater infrastructure within active management areas that increases natural, incidental, or artificial groundwater recharge. Credits are limited to the volume of recharge over 100 years and may be used to meet assured water supply requirements. By January 1, 2026, ADWR is required to establish rules for eligible infrastructure, with criteria for certification and quantification of credits. Applicants for credits are exempt from storage facility permit requirements.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 20, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2572](#) - technical correction; groundwater rights; AMAs

**Sponsor:** Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

**Summary:** Striker - *groundwater; plants; wine grapes; non-irrigation*

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** Scheduled for House Natural Resources, Energy & Water hearing - Feb 14, 2025 09:00AM

[HB 2644](#) - rainwater harvesting; appropriation

**Sponsor:** Rep. Sarah Liguori (D)

**Summary:** Expands the purposes of the Water Conservation Grant Fund to include support for rainwater harvesting programs and establishes a Rainwater Harvesting Program under the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority. Authorizes grants for installing passive and active rainwater collection systems, with reimbursement limits based on the project type and capacity of rain storage tanks. Specifies eligibility requirements, permissible costs, and costs excluded from reimbursement. Appropriates an unspecified amount from the state general fund in FY2025-26 to the Water Conservation Grant Fund to implement the Program.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 26, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water / Appropriations

[HB 2697](#) - water; residential lease communities

**Sponsor:** Rep. Selina Bliss (R)

**Summary:** Prohibits municipalities and counties from approving building permits for detached residential dwelling units in "residential lease communities" (defined) within initial active management areas unless the units have obtained a certificate of assured water supply or a written commitment of water service from a designated city, town, or private water company. Exempts residential lease communities with zoning entitlements on or before September 30, 2025.

**Position:** Support

**Last Action:** January 29, 2025 - Referred to House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2714](#) - rural groundwater management areas; establishment

**Sponsor:** Rep. Christopher Mathis (D)

**Summary:** Establishes a process to designate Rural Groundwater Management Areas (RGMA) and grants local authorities the ability to impose water adequacy requirements within an RGMA. Establishes five initial RGMAs on the effective date of this legislation: Gila Bend, Hualapai Valley, Ranegras Plain, San Simon Valley, and Willcox. Restricts county boards of supervisors from approving subdivision plats in an RGMA unless ADWR determines an adequate water supply or the subdivider secures a written commitment for water service. Requires additional water adequacy documentation in real estate transactions and public reports for subdivisions and timeshare developments in an RGMA. The existing Willcox Active Management Area is repealed and supplanted by the Willcox RGMA on the effective date of this legislation.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 29, 2025 - Bill introduced

[HB 2727](#) - county water authority; post-2024 authority

**Sponsor:** Rep. Leo Biasiucci (R)

**Summary:** Expands the authority of county water authorities formed after December 31, 2024, to include acquiring and managing additional water sources beyond Colorado River water, including groundwater, effluent, and other water resources. Modifies the structure and membership requirements of county water

authorities. Establishes new financial and administrative frameworks for post-2024 authorities, including revised budgeting, dues collection, and fund management processes.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 20, 2025 - Passed House Natural Resources, Energy & Water w/ amendment

[HB 2729](#) - online exchange; groundwater sales

**Sponsor:** Rep. Alexander Kolodin (R)

**Summary:** Requires ADWR to create an online water exchange marketplace for buying, selling, leasing, and transferring groundwater rights within the Phoenix, Tucson, and Pinal Active Management Areas. Allows individuals with grandfathered groundwater rights to sell or lease their rights within the same subbasin, subject to reporting requirements. Requires sellers and lessors to notify ADWR of transaction details, including price, location, and volume of groundwater transferred. Limits buyers and lessees to withdrawing only 65 percent of the groundwater right conveyed, with the remaining 35 percent retired from use. Exempts groundwater conveyed under this system from replenishment obligations and certain municipal groundwater use restrictions.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 3, 2025 - Bill introduced

[HB 2731](#) - Big Chino subbasin; Verde River

**Sponsor:** Rep. Quang Nguyen (R)

**Summary:** Allows cities and towns that own historically irrigated land in the Big Chino Subbasin of the Verde River groundwater basin to withdraw and transport groundwater to the headwaters of the Verde River within the Big Chino Subbasin.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 20, 2025 - Held in House Natural Resources, Energy & Water

[HB 2753](#) - groundwater replenishment; Pinal AMA

**Sponsor:** Rep. Theresa Martinez (R)

**Summary:** Requires the Central Arizona Water Conservation District to replenish groundwater in the Pinal Active Management Area (AMA) within three years of incurring a replenishment obligation. Allows municipal providers applying for a new assured water supply designation in the Pinal AMA to elect whether member land parcels within their service areas retain a replenishment obligation. Requires ADWR to amend rules incorporating extinguishment credits and groundwater allowances associated with member lands in a designation of assured water supply by January 1, 2026.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 20, 2025 - Passed House Natural Resources, Energy & Water w/ amendment

[HB 2776](#) - rural water sustainability fund; appropriation

**Sponsor:** Rep. Christopher Mathis (D)

**Summary:** Establishes the Rural Watershed Sustainability Initiative Fund, to be administered by ADWR and used to provide grants to local watershed groups in rural areas to fund administrative and operational needs. Requires ADWR to prioritize funding for watershed groups with clear water conservation goals and those operating in high-risk or critically depleted groundwater basins. Appropriates \$500,000 from the state general fund in FY2025-26 to the Fund.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 6, 2025 - Bill introduced

[HB 2826](#) - irrigation districts; water distribution

**Sponsor:** Rep. Julie Willoughby (R)

**Summary:** Makes various changes to statutes governing irrigation and water conservation districts. Expands the distribution of district water to include municipalities within district boundaries that have contractual entitlements. Requires districts to publish an annual report detailing water sources, distribution, and any deliveries made outside the district. Beginning in tax year 2025, municipal customers in the district are entitled to a refund for water taxes paid in years when water was available but not delivered. Prohibits districts from accumulating water credits unless they first fulfill all obligations to lands and municipalities entitled to water within their boundaries.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 10, 2025 - Bill introduced

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## **SENATE**

[SB 1088](#) - ADWR; hydrology reports

**Sponsor:** Sen. Jake Hoffman (R)

**Summary:** Requires the Governor and the Director of ADWR to submit hydrology reports on active management areas and related topics to the Senate Natural Resources Committee and the House of Representatives Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee, or their successor committees, at least 30 days before publication.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 20, 2025 - Passed Senate Government w/ amendment

[SB 1114](#) - assured water supply; analysis; availability

**Sponsor:** Sen. Tim Dunn (R)

**Summary:** Requires the Director of ADWR to accept certain analyses conducted before May 31, 2023, as valid demonstrations of physical groundwater availability for issuing certificates of assured water supply. Permits applicants holding such analyses to reduce groundwater volumes by 15 percent when applying for new certificates. The Director of ADWR is required to issue certificates based on water demand assumptions used at the time the analysis was originally conducted.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 24, 2025 - Placed on Senate Committee of the Whole calendar

[SB 1115](#) - demand calculator; rules; conservation code

**Sponsor:** Sen. Tim Dunn (R)

**Summary:** Requires the Director of ADWR to adopt rules to update the project demand calculator every five years, incorporating the latest conservation codes. Allows expedited rulemaking procedures for implementing these updates.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 11, 2025 - Transmit to House

[SB 1116](#) - groundwater model; receipt; written findings

**Sponsor:** Sen. Tim Dunn (R)

**Summary:** Requires the Director of ADWR to notify the submitter within 5 days of receiving an alternative groundwater model. Within 60 days of receipt, the Director must issue a written response detailing acceptance or rejection of the model's overall findings and specific findings, including rationale for any rejections.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 24, 2026 - Placed on Senate Committee of the Whole calendar

[SB 1134](#) - ADWR; application; review; time frames

**Sponsor:** Sen. Thomas "TJ" Shope (R)

**Summary:** Requires ADWR to complete administrative completeness reviews for applications for new or modified certificates, designations, or analyses of assured water supply within 90 days or less. ADWR must complete substantive reviews within 30 days or less, and the overall processing time frame cannot exceed 120 days.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 9, 2025 - Placed on Senate Committee of the Whole calendar

[SB 1236](#) - government anti-identification procedures; technical correction

**Sponsor:** Sen. Warren Petersen (R)

**Summary:** Striker - *storm water*

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 18, 2025 - Passed Senate Natural Resources w/ amendment

[SB 1248](#) - state lands; leases; groundwater use

**Sponsor:** Sen. Priya Sundareshan (D)

**Summary:** The State Land Department (SLD) is required to establish by rule an annual groundwater withdrawal fee for lessees of state land that is agricultural land located outside of an active management

area or an irrigation non-expansion area. Requires lessees to annually report to SLD information about the location of the well, quantity of groundwater withdrawn, and specific uses of the groundwater.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 26, 2025 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources

[SB 1249](#) - groundwater pumping; measuring; reporting

**Sponsor:** Sen. Priya Sundareshan (D)

**Summary:** Requires a person who withdraws groundwater from a nonexempt well in all areas of Arizona to use a water-measuring device, with some exceptions. Expands annual groundwater reporting requirements to include nonexempt wells outside active management and irrigation non-expansion areas, with some exceptions. Exceptions to both of these requirements apply to a person who withdraws ten or fewer acre-feet of groundwater per year from a nonexempt well for a non-irrigation use, or a person who withdraws groundwater from a nonexempt well for an irrigation use if the groundwater is used only on land owned by a person who has the right to irrigate ten or fewer contiguous acres at the place of use, and is not used on land that is part of an integrated farming operation.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 26, 2025 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources

[SB 1250](#) - aquifer management; conservation; priority

**Sponsor:** Sen. Priya Sundareshan (D)

**Summary:** ADWR if required to prioritize the conservation and maintenance of aquifers in Arizona and subsequently prioritize the protection of consumers and other uses.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 26, 2025 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources

[SB 1251](#) - long-term storage accounts; credits; percentage

**Sponsor:** Sen. Priya Sundareshan (D)

**Summary:** Reduces the credit that ADWR must credit to a storer's long-term storage account to 70 percent of recoverable water stored, from 95 percent.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 26, 2025 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources

[SB 1252](#) - watershed health; survey; use

**Sponsor:** Sen. Priya Sundareshan (D)

**Summary:** By December 31, 2025, ADWR is required to publish a preliminary survey of the status of waters in Arizona, including watershed health and recommended statutory changes. By December 31 every three years after the initial preliminary survey of groundwater basins already required in statute, ADWR is required to issue a report that includes an assessment of the overall health of each watershed in Arizona.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 26, 2025 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources

**[SB 1253](#)** - subsequent irrigation; non-expansion area; designation

**Sponsor:** Sen. Priya Sundareshan (D)

**Summary:** Establishes requirements for signers of a petition to designate a subsequent irrigation non-expansion area. A petition must be submitted within one year after the county recorder issues it to the petitioners, and must be accompanied by a hydrologic report and numeric groundwater flow model. A decision by ADWR that a petition does not comply with these requirements is an appealable agency action under the Administrative Procedures Act.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 26, 2025 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources

**[SB 1254](#)** - subsequent active management area; designation

**Sponsor:** Sen. Priya Sundareshan (D)

**Summary:** The Director of ADWR is required, instead of allowed, to designate an area not currently within an active management area as a subsequent active management area if it meets specified criteria.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 26, 2025 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources

**[SB 1260](#)** - assured water supply; agricultural water

**Sponsor:** Sen. Tim Dunn (R)

**Summary:** Allows a city or town within a specified exemption area and the Phoenix Active Management Area to receive an assured water supply designation if located on lands served by an agricultural water company, if other specified conditions apply.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 4, 2025 - Held in Senate Natural Resources

**[SB 1304](#)** - irrigation water; assured water supply

**Sponsor:** Sen. Thomas "TJ" Shope (R)

**Summary:** Authorizes the Director of ADWR to designate portions of cities or towns within active management areas as having an assured water supply if specific criteria are met, including long-term water availability and financial capability to construct necessary infrastructure. Limits the designation to areas contracted with irrigation and water conservation districts for water use and treatment for municipal purposes.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 18, 2025 - Passed Senate Natural Resources

**[SB 1381](#)** - well drilling application; location; GPS

**Sponsor:** Sen. Rosanna Gabaldón (D)

**Summary:** Requires the inclusion of Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates of the location of the well to be included in the notice of intention to drill a well.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** January 29, 2025 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources

[SB 1393](#) - false claims; agriculture; technical correction

**Sponsor:** Sen. Thomas “TJ” Shope (R)

**Summary:** Striker - *groundwater replenishments; Pinal AMA*

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 18, 2025 - Passed Senate Natural Resources w/ amendment

[SB 1425](#) - rural groundwater management areas; establishment

**Sponsor:** Sen. Priya Sundareshan (D)

**Summary:** Establishes a process to designate Rural Groundwater Management Areas (RGMA) and grants local authorities the ability to impose water adequacy requirements within an RGMA. Establishes five initial RGMAs on the effective date of this legislation: Gila Bend, Hualapai Valley, Ranegras Plain, San Simon Valley, and Willcox. Restricts county boards of supervisors from approving subdivision plats in an RGMA unless ADWR determines an adequate water supply or the subdivider secures a written commitment for water service. Requires additional water adequacy documentation in real estate transactions and public reports for subdivisions and timeshare developments in an RGMA. The existing Willcox Active Management Area is repealed and supplanted by the Willcox RGMA on the effective date of this legislation.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 2, 2025 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources

[SB 1432](#) - prohibition; geoengineering

**Sponsor:** Sen. David Farnsworth (R)

**Summary:** Prohibits individuals from intentionally injecting, releasing, or dispensing any chemical, compound, substance, or apparatus within Arizona's borders with the intent to affect temperature, weather, or sunlight intensity. Statute regulating weather control and cloud modification is repealed.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 18, 2025 - Passed Senate Natural Resources w/ amendment

[SB 1518](#) - subsequent AMAs; groundwater portability

**Sponsor:** Sen. Tim Dunn (R)

**Summary:** Allows the owner of an irrigation grandfathered right in a subsequent active management area (AMA) to use, sell, transfer, or lease the grandfathered right and associated water duty of non-irrigated acres to another irrigator within the same subsequent AMA. Requires owners that do so to notify ADWR and include details of the acres involved and the volume of groundwater conveyed.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 18, 2025 - Passed Senate Natural Resources

[SB 1520](#) - water protection; technical correction

**Sponsor:** Sen. Tim Dunn (R)

**Summary:** Striker - *rural groundwater*

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 18, 2025 - Passed Senate Natural Resources w/ amendment

[SB 1521](#) - unbuilt certificates; assured water supply

**Sponsor:** Sen. Tim Dunn (R)

**Summary:** Allows the sale, transfer, or aggregation of an unbuilt certificate of assured water supply separate from the original lot or parcel, provided the transaction occurs within the same subbasin of the same active management area. Requires the groundwater allocated to the certificate to be used for the same proposed purpose. Establishes deadlines for construction or groundbreaking on the receiving lot or subdivision following the transfer. Requires a person that conducts these transactions to notify ADWR.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 18, 2025 - Placed on Senate Caucus calendar

[SB 1522](#) - waterlogged area; exemption area

**Sponsor:** Sen. Tim Dunn (R)

**Summary:** Beginning January 1, 1989 to January 1, 2035, ADWR is required to determine that the withdrawal of up to 10,000 acre-feet of groundwater by a municipal provider from a specified area is consistent with the management goal of the Phoenix Active Management Area, is sufficient groundwater or surface water, and it not excess water. Retroactive to January 1, 1989.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 18, 2025 - Passed Senate Natural Resources w/ amendment

[SB 1523](#) - water use; prohibition; landscaping

**Sponsor:** Sen. Tim Dunn (R)

**Summary:** Prohibits municipalities within active management areas with a goal of safe-yield from imposing minimum requirements for trees, shrubs, ground cover, turf, open space beyond what is required for retention, or detached sidewalks. Bans municipalities in initial active management areas from mandating minimum turf requirements, except for public recreational or civic spaces, and from requiring the installation of plants that are not low-water-use and drought-tolerant.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 18, 2025 - Placed on Senate Caucus calendar

[SB 1530](#) - groundwater storage facility; withdrawals; area

**Sponsor:** Sen. Warren Petersen (R)

**Summary:** Requires ADWR to assume that a groundwater recovery well is within the area of impact of stored water if the well is located within one mile of specified water storage infrastructure, drainage channels, or groundwater savings facilities.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 18, 2025 - Passed Senate Natural Resources

[SB 1558](#) - water technology study committee

**Sponsor:** Sen. Thomas "TJ" Shope (R)

**Summary:** Establishes the Water Technology Study Committee to research and make recommendations on the application of water conservation technology in Arizona. Requires the Committee to examine existing technologies, initiatives in other states, and the potential use of emerging water management technologies. Requires the Committee to submit a report with its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by December 31, 2026. The Committee self-repeals January 1, 2027.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 18, 2025 - Passed Senate Natural Resources

[SB 1598](#) - subdivisions; assured water supply; lots

**Sponsor:** Sen. Priya Sundareshan (D)

**Summary:** Requires a person proposing to offer one or more lots, parcels, or fractional interests in land for sale or lease to obtain a certificate of assured water supply before presenting the plat for approval to the county or municipality or offering the property for sale or lease. Counties and municipalities can approve a building permit only if the property has a certificate of assured water supply or a written commitment of water service from a municipal or private water company designated as having an assured water supply.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 3, 2025 - Bill introduced

[SB 1599](#) - assured water supply; building permits

**Sponsor:** Sen. Priya Sundareshan (D)

**Summary:** Requires a person proposing to offer one or more lots, parcels, or fractional interests in land for sale or lease to obtain a certificate of assured water supply before presenting the plat for approval to the county or municipality. Counties and municipalities can approve a building permit only if the property, including residential, commercial, and industrial development, has a certificate of assured water supply or a written commitment of water service from a municipal or private water company designated as having an assured water supply.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 3, 2025 - Bill introduced

[SB 1611](#) - physical availability exemption credit; groundwater

**Sponsor:** Sen. Thomas “TJ” Shope (R)

**Summary:** Creates a physical availability exemption credit allowing landowners in active management areas to permanently relinquish irrigation grandfathered rights in exchange for a groundwater withdrawal allowance. Specifies credit volumes and corresponding replenishment obligations based on location and acre-feet per irrigation acre. Exempts certain groundwater withdrawals from physical availability requirements for an assured water supply if specific criteria are met. Requires ADWR to establish procedures for granting, tracking, and assigning physical availability exemption credits.

**Position:** Neutral

**Last Action:** February 18, 2025 - Passed Senate Natural Resources