



WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

FOR THE WEEK ENDING ON FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025

This weekly publication is available during the legislative session. For general legislative inquiries, please visit azwater.gov.

INFORMATION

Today is the 61st day of the 57th Legislature, 1st Regular Session.

- The last day for bill consideration in committee is Friday, March 28.

POSTED COMMITTEE HEARINGS

- **Senate Natural Resources - 3/18/2025, 1:30 PM, SHR 1**
 - [HB 2271](#) *supply and demand; assessment; groundwater* (Griffin)
 - [HB 2274](#) *water improvement district; Willcox basin* (Griffin)
 - [HB 2573](#) *groundwater; plants; wine grapes; non-irrigation* (Griffin)
 - [HCR 2051](#) *Yuma agriculture; water rights; supporting* (Griffin)
- **House NREW - 3/18/2025, 2:00 PM, HHR 3**
 - [SB 1114](#) *assured water supply; analysis; availability* (Dunn)
 - [SB 1115](#) *demand calculator; rules; conservation code* (Dunn)
 - [SB 1116](#) *groundwater model; receipt; written findings* (Dunn)
 - [SB 1134](#) *ADWR; application; review; time frames* (Shope)
 - [SB 1236](#) *storm water* (Shope)
 - [SB 1393](#) *groundwater replenishments; Pinal AMA* (Shope)
 - [SB 1448](#) *appropriation; on-farm irrigation efficiency fund* (Dunn)
 - [SB 1518](#) *subsequent AMAs; groundwater portability* (Dunn)
 - [SB 1530](#) *groundwater storage facility; withdrawals; area* (Petersen)
 - [SB 1558](#) *water technology study committee* (Shope)
- **House Regulatory Oversight - 3/18/2025, 3:00 PM, HHR 4**
 - [SB 1432](#) *prohibition; geoengineering* (Farnsworth)

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 2087 - appropriation; groundwater recharge facilities; maintenance

Sponsor: Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

Summary: Appropriates \$250,000 from the state general fund in FY2025-26 to the state natural resource conservation board to clean and restore artificial groundwater recharge facilities.

Position: Neutral

Last Action: March 10, 2025 - Transmit to Senate

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 and is required to file an order designating the area as outside of an AMA. Establishes procedures for public hearings regarding the removal of AMA designations.

Position: Neutral

Last Action: February 24, 2025 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources

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 signed by at least ten percent of residents to remove the AMA designation. The county board of supervisors is required to forward petitions to the Director of ADWR, who must examine groundwater conditions within 60 days of receiving the petition 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 25, 2025 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources

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 25, 2025 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources & Senate Appropriations

[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 25, 2025 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources

[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: March 4, 2025 - Passed Senate Natural Resources

[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: March 10, 2025 - Transmit to Senate

[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: March 11, 2025 - Passed Senate Natural Resources

[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: Scheduled for Senate Natural Resources hearing - Mar 18, 2025 01:30PM

[HB 2274](#) - water improvement district; Willcox basin

Sponsor: Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

Summary: Authorizes the Cochise County Board of Supervisors to call a special election for residents within the Willcox groundwater basin to decide whether to establish a domestic water improvement district. Limits the district's jurisdiction to the portion of the basin within Cochise County. Grants the district authority to deliver drinking water, construct water infrastructure, and manage groundwater recharge projects. Designates the Cochise County Board of Supervisors as the district's governing body if voters approve its formation.

Position: Neutral

Last Action: Scheduled for Senate Natural Resources hearing - Mar 18, 2025 01:30PM

[HB 2298](#) - physical availability exemption credit; groundwater

Sponsor: Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

Summary: Allows landowners in active management areas to permanently relinquish irrigation grandfathered rights in exchange for physical availability exemption credits, which permit groundwater withdrawals under specific replenishment requirements. Establishes groundwater withdrawal and replenishment obligations for the Phoenix, Tucson, and Pinal Active Management Areas. Requires ADWR to identify and track these credits and to determine physical availability for assured water supply applications using specified criteria. Exempts certain groundwater withdrawals from physical availability requirements under assured water supply rules.

Position: Neutral

Last Action: February 25, 2025 - Passed House COW amended

[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: March 12, 2025 - Failed House Third Reading

[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: March 4, 2025 - Passed Senate Natural Resources

[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: March 3, 2025 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources

[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 25, 2025 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources

[HB 2572](#) - subsequent AMAs; groundwater rights; adequacy

Sponsor: Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

Summary: Prohibits municipalities and counties from approving subdivisions in subsequent active management areas without a determination of adequate water supply from ADWR or a written commitment of water service for the subdivision from a water company designated as having an adequate water supply.

Allows landowners in subsequent active management areas to apply for modifications to their irrigation grandfathered rights, including to add acres within the same groundwater basin or subbasin, to retire irrigated acres and substitute them with new acres within the same basin, to transfer irrigation grandfathered rights from retired acres to other land within the same basin, or to combine multiple irrigation grandfathered rights held within the same basin under a single owner or user.

Position: Neutral

Last Action: March 3, 2025 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources

[HB 2573](#) - groundwater; plants; wine grapes; non-irrigation

Sponsor: Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

Summary: Reiterates that hydroponic plants are considered a non-irrigation water use in an Active Management Area (AMA). Adds the growing of wine grapes to the definition of non-irrigation water use in an AMA.

Position: Neutral

Last Action: Scheduled for Senate Natural Resources hearing - Mar 18, 2025 01:30PM

[HB 2691](#) - groundwater replenishment districts; annual dues

Sponsor: Rep. Gail Griffin (R)

Summary: Modifies the calculation of annual membership dues for groundwater replenishment districts by establishing new methods to prorate costs based on projected groundwater use per lot for member lands.

Position: Neutral

Last Action: March 10, 2025 - Transmit to Senate

[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: March 10, 2025 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources

[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.

Position: Neutral

Last Action: March 10, 2025 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources

SENATE

[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: Scheduled for House Natural Resources, Energy & Water hearing - Mar 18, 2025 02:00PM

[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: Scheduled for House Natural Resources, Energy & Water hearing - Mar 18, 2025 02:00PM

[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: Scheduled for House Natural Resources, Energy & Water hearing - Mar 18, 2025 02:00PM

[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 30 days or less. ADWR must complete substantive reviews within 90 days or less, and the overall processing time frame cannot exceed 120 days.

Position: Neutral

Last Action: Scheduled for House Natural Resources, Energy & Water hearing - Mar 18, 2025 02:00PM

[SB 1236](#) - storm water

Sponsor: Sen. Warren Petersen (R)

Summary: Allows a storer to recharge stormwater in a constructed underground storage facility and receive a replenishment credit. Requires ADWR to determine the annual quantity of recharged stormwater and credit 95 percent of that volume to the storer's replenishment credit account. Authorizes storers to use or transfer replenishment credits to offset their replenishment obligation within the same subbasin under specified conditions. Requires ADWR to treat replenishment credits as groundwater and not stored water. Expands water storage permit eligibility to include stormwater recharged for aquifer replenishment.

Position: Neutral

Last Action: Scheduled for House Natural Resources, Energy & Water hearing - Mar 18, 2025 02:00PM

[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: March 6, 2025 - Retained on Senate COW calendar

[SB 1393](#) - groundwater replenishments; Pinal AMA

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

Summary: Allows a municipal provider applying for a new designation of assured water supply in the Pinal Active Management Area that relies on a member service area agreement to elect for all parcels of member land within its service area to retain a replenishment obligation.

Position: Neutral

Last Action: Scheduled for House Natural Resources, Energy & Water hearing - Mar 18, 2025 02:00PM

[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: Scheduled for House Regulatory Oversight hearing - Mar 18, 2025 03:00PM

[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: Scheduled for House Natural Resources, Energy & Water hearing - Mar 18, 2025 02:00PM

[SB 1520](#) - rural groundwater

Sponsor: Sen. Tim Dunn (R)

Summary: Authorizes the designation of a Basin Management Area (BMA) in the Gila Bend, Hualapai Valley, or Willcox Groundwater Basin through a voter petition or a determination by the Director of ADWR based on specific groundwater conditions. Establishes procedures for initiating and approving a BMA, including public meetings, hydrological studies, and economic impact assessments. Establishes formulas to calculate groundwater rights for water users in a BMA. Requires ADWR to establish rules to maintain a flexibility account for each certificate of groundwater right in a BMA. Establishes regulations for the use of agricultural groundwater rights and conversion of those rights to municipal and industrial use, and allows the owner of a municipal and industrial certificate of groundwater rights to sell or convey them under specified circumstances. Requires a BMA council to be established to manage groundwater use, develop conservation plans, and regulate groundwater rights. Repeals the Willcox Active Management Area and replaces it with the Willcox BMA.

Position: Neutral

Last Action: March 13, 2025 - Transmit to House

[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: March 13, 2025 - Transmit to House

[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: March 3, 2025 - Passed Senate COW calendar amended

[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: Scheduled for House Natural Resources, Energy & Water hearing - Mar 18, 2025 02:00PM

[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: Scheduled for House Natural Resources, Energy & Water hearing - Mar 18, 2025 02:00PM

[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: Scheduled for House Natural Resources, Energy & Water hearing - Mar 18, 2025 02:00PM

[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 24, 2025 - Removed from Senate Consent calendar