

1 SENATE BILL 342

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 George K. Muñoz and Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO WATER; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT TO
12 PROMULGATE RULES FOR THE USE OF BRACKISH WATER; MAKING AN
13 APPROPRIATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER FOR BRACKISH
14 WATER USE EXPLORATION, TREATMENT AND AQUIFER CHARACTERIZATION
15 FOR WATER PROJECTS; MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO THE BOARD OF
16 REGENTS OF THE NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY
17 AND THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY FOR THE
18 DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY FOR PROJECTS RELATED TO BRACKISH
19 WATER USE.

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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

22 SECTION 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--PROJECT RULES.--The
23 department of environment shall by December 31, 2026 promulgate
24 rules for the use of naturally occurring brackish water for the
25 water projects specified in Section 2 of this act. As used in

.230139.1

underscored material = new
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1 this section, "brackish water" means water that is sourced from
2 an aquifer, the top of which is at a depth of two thousand five
3 hundred feet or more below the surface of the ground, contains
4 not less than one thousand parts per million of dissolved
5 solids and is not produced water.

6 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Fifty million dollars
7 (\$50,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
8 office of the state engineer for expenditure in fiscal years
9 2026 through 2030 for planning, design, administration and
10 matching federal, private and public water utility funds for
11 brackish water use exploration, treatment and aquifer
12 characterization water projects to benefit the lower Rio
13 Grande, middle Rio Grande, Permian basin and northwest quadrant
14 of the state. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining
15 at the end of fiscal year 2030 shall revert to the general
16 fund.

17 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION.--Sixteen million dollars
18 (\$16,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
19 board of regents of the New Mexico institute of mining and
20 technology for expenditure in fiscal years 2026 through 2030
21 for innovation, research, monitoring, support and development
22 of technology associated with water projects pursuant to
23 Section 2 of this act and for aquifer monitoring and improved
24 ground water characterization. Any unexpended or unencumbered
25 balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2030 shall revert

.230139.1

