

AN ACT  
RELATING TO WATER; ENACTING THE WATER DATA ACT; DIRECTING AGENCIES TO IDENTIFY  
AND INTEGRATE KEY WATER DATA SETS; PROVIDING DUTIES; DIRECTING THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF A WATER DATA ACCOUNT. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Water Data Act".

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Water Data Act: A. "agencies" means: (1) the bureau of geology and mineral resources of the New Mexico institute of mining and technology; (2) the interstate stream commission; (3) the office of the state engineer; (4) the department of environment; and (5) the energy, minerals and natural resources department; B. "data and information platform" means software, hardware and tools that collect, organize, integrate, distribute and archive water data that at a minimum: (1) integrate water data managed by state and local entities using consistent and standardized formats; and (2) integrate: (a) state and local government data on streamflow, precipitation, reservoir and irrigation system operations, ground water use and levels, municipal and industrial water use and land uses, but not including data from residential wells; (b) data on water rights, water diversions and water quality; and (c) data on fish, aquatic and riparian systems and ecological data; and C. "water data" means measurements of basic properties relating to the planning and management of water resources, including streamflow, precipitation, ground water, water quality and water use in agriculture, industry and municipal uses and natural systems.

SECTION 3. WATER DATA AGENCIES--DUTIES--STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES--ANNUAL PLAN.-- A. By January 1, 2020, the agencies, as convened by the bureau of geology and mineral resources of the New Mexico institute of mining and technology, shall: (1) identify key water data, information and tools needed to support water management and planning; (2) develop common water data standards for data collection; (3) develop an integrated water data and information platform; and (4) identify available and unavailable water data. B. Water research undertaken with state funding shall comply with the common water data standards and best practices developed by the agencies. C. The agencies shall collaborate with other regional and national efforts to share, integrate and manage water data. D. Within two hundred seventy-five days of enactment of the Water Data Act, and thereafter annually by September 1 of each year, the agencies shall develop and submit a plan to the governor and the appropriate interim legislative committee that details: (1) an assessment of water data and information needs to support water management and planning; (2) goals, targets and actions to carry out the purposes of the Water Data Act in the upcoming fiscal year; (3) budgetary resources to carry out the purposes of the Water Data Act; and (4) metrics for achieving the purposes of the Water Data Act.

SECTION 4. WATER DATA ACCOUNT.--The board of regents of the New Mexico institute of mining and technology shall establish a "water data account" to receive appropriations from the legislature and gifts, grants or donations for the bureau of geology and mineral resources to carry out the purposes of the Water Data Act.