

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 9—COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

(ON BEHALF OF THE JOINT INTERIM STANDING  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES)

PREFILED OCTOBER 29, 2024

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing the temporary conversion of agricultural water. (BDR 48-391)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to water; revising the duration of time in which agricultural water rights may be temporarily converted for certain purposes; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Under existing law, a person or entity may apply to temporarily convert  
2 agricultural water rights for wildlife purposes or to improve the quality or flow of  
3 water for a duration not to exceed 3 years and a temporary conversion may be  
4 extended in increments not to exceed 3 years in duration each. (NRS 533.0243)  
5 This bill instead provides that a temporary conversion of agricultural water rights  
6 may not exceed 10 years in duration and may be extended in increments that may  
7 not exceed 5 years in duration each.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** NRS 533.0243 is hereby amended to read as  
2 follows:  
3 533.0243 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that it  
4 is the policy of this State to allow the temporary conversion of  
5 agricultural water rights for wildlife purposes or to improve the  
6 quality or flow of water.



1 2. If a person or entity proposes to temporarily convert  
2 agricultural water rights for wildlife purposes or to improve the  
3 quality or flow of water, such temporary conversion:

4 (a) Must not be carried out unless the person or entity first  
5 applies for and receives from the State Engineer any necessary  
6 permits or approvals required pursuant to:

7 (1) The provisions of this chapter; and

8 (2) Any applicable decisions, orders, procedures and  
9 regulations of the State Engineer.

10 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, must not  
11 exceed ~~3~~ 10 years in duration. A temporary conversion of  
12 agricultural water rights for wildlife purposes or to improve the  
13 quality or flow of water may be extended in increments not to  
14 exceed ~~3~~ 5 years in duration each, provided that the person or  
15 entity seeking the extension first applies for and receives from the  
16 State Engineer any necessary permits or approvals, as described in  
17 paragraph (a).

