

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

2001 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: David L. Hogue

This act amends the State Officers and Employees title of the code to provide that the director of the Department of Human Resource Management establish a plan for education compensation for law enforcement officers and correctional officers that addresses tuition and step increases for obtaining specified higher education degrees.

This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:

ENACTS:

67-19-12.4, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **67-19-12.4** is enacted to read:

67-19-12.4. Education benefit plan for law enforcement and correctional officers.

(1) As used in this section, "law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as in Section 53-13-103 and "correctional officer" has the same meaning as in Section 53-13-104.

(2) The director shall establish a plan authorizing any state agency to implement an educational compensation program for law enforcement officers and correctional officers employed by that state agency.

(3) The program shall provide that in order for a law enforcement officer or correctional officer to qualify for education benefits for college or university education, the law enforcement officer or correctional officer shall:

(a) provide a certified transcript of grades, demonstrating a grade point average of 3.0 or greater, from an accredited college or university; and

(b) have successfully completed the probationary employment period with the employing agency.

(4) The program shall also provide that the agency may consider a law enforcement officer or correctional officer to receive additional compensation as follows for higher education degrees earned on or after April 30, 2001, in a subject area directly related to the law enforcement officer's

or correctional officer's employment with the agency:

- (a) two steps for an associate's degree;
- (b) two steps for a bachelor's degree; and
- (c) two steps for a master's degree.

(5) Expenses incurred by an agency to provide additional compensation under this section may be only from the agency's existing budget.