

**Division of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Amendments**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Ryan D. Wilcox**

Senate Sponsor:

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill addresses the salary ranges for peace officers employed by the Division of Natural Resources.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- requires the specialized state pay plan for DNR peace officers to establish certain salary ranges; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**63A-17-110**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapters 169, 274

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

Section 1. Section **63A-17-110** is amended to read:

**63A-17-110 . State pay plans for DNR peace officers and wildland firefighters.**

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Division of Law Enforcement" means the division created in Section 79-2-702 within the Department of Natural Resources.

[(a)] (b) "DNR peace officer" means an employee of the Department of Natural Resources who is designated as a peace officer by law.

[(b)] (c) "Wildland firefighter" means an employee of the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands who is:

- (i) trained in firefighter techniques; and

- 31 (ii) assigned to a position of hazardous duty.
- 32 (2) The director shall:
- 33 (a) establish a specialized state pay plan for DNR peace officers and wildland  
34 firefighters that:
- 35 (i) meets the requirements of Section 63A-17-307;
- 36 (ii) subject to Subsection (3), distinguishes the salary range and rate for each DNR  
37 peace officer[-and-] ;
- 38 (iii) distinguishes the salary range for each wildland firefighter classification;
- 39 [(iii)] (iv) includes for each DNR peace officer and wildland firefighter classification:
- 40 (A) the minimum qualifications; and
- 41 (B) any training requirements; and
- 42 [(iv)] (v) provides standards for:
- 43 (A) performance evaluation; and
- 44 (B) promotion; and
- 45 (b) include, in the plan described in Subsection 63A-17-307(5), recommendations on  
46 funding and salary increases for DNR peace officers and wildland firefighters.
- 47 (3)(a) Subject to Subsection (3)(b), the salary range and rate distinguished for each DNR  
48 peace officer under Subsection (2)(a)(ii) shall be equivalent to the salary range and  
49 rate of a peace officer employed by the Department of Public Safety with similar  
50 years of service and qualifications.
- 51 (b) If the salary range and rate determined under Subsection (3)(a) for the rank of major  
52 or the position of deputy director or director within the Division of Law Enforcement  
53 would exceed the salary range and rate of division directors employed by the  
54 Department of Natural Resources in other divisions within the Department of Natural  
55 Resources, the executive director of the Department of Natural Resources, in  
56 consultation with the director of the Division of Law Enforcement, may make  
57 reasonable adjustments to the range and rate.

58 Section 2. **Effective Date.**

59 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.