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Line-of-Duty Death Benefit Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Derrin R. Owens

House Sponsor: Jefferson S. Burton

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LONG TITLE

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General Description:

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This bill modifies provisions related to line-of-duty death benefits.

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Highlighted Provisions:

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This bill:

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▸ provides that the Local Public Safety and Firefighter Surviving Spouse Trust Fund Board

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of Trustees may use money in the Local Public Safety and Firefighter Surviving Spouse

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Trust Fund to pay for certain previously incurred employer costs related to health

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coverage for a surviving spouse and dependent children following a line-of-duty death.

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Money Appropriated in this Bill:

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None

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Other Special Clauses:

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None

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Utah Code Sections Affected:

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AMENDS:

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53-17-401, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 56

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

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Section 1. Section **53-17-401** is amended to read:

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53-17-401 . Local Public Safety and Firefighter Surviving Spouse Trust Fund.

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(1) There is created a private purpose trust fund entitled the "Local Public Safety and

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Firefighter Surviving Spouse Trust Fund."

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(2) The trust fund consists of:

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(a) fees established in Subsection 53-17-402(2)(a);

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(b) appropriations made to the fund by the Legislature, if any;

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(c) private donations and grants; and

- 29 (d) other revenue received from other sources.
- 30 (3) The department:
- 31 (a) shall account for the receipt and expenditures of trust fund money; or
- 32 (b) may enter into contract with a third-party administrator to administer the fund and
- 33 account for the receipt and expenditure of trust fund money.
- 34 (4) The trust fund shall earn interest.
- 35 (5) The revenue and interest in the account, less actual administrative costs to the
- 36 department, shall be used to lower fees paid by an employer under Section 53-17-201.
- 37 (6) The board of trustees created in Section 53-17-402 may expend money from the trust
- 38 fund:
- 39 (a) as provided in Subsection 53-17-201(1);~~[-and]~~
- 40 (b) to reimburse an employer for any amount paid:
- 41 (i) under Section 53-17-201 for:
- 42 (A) premium costs; or
- 43 (B) contribution into a health savings account; and
- 44 (ii) on or after May 1, 2024, and before May 7, 2025; and
- 45 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) for reasonable administrative costs that the department and the board of trustees
- 46 incur in performing their duties for administering the trust fund.
- 47 (7) Money deposited into the trust fund is irrevocable and is expended only for the purposes
- 48 described in this chapter.
- 49 (8) Assets of the trust fund are dedicated for the purposes established by statute and
- 50 administrative rule.
- 51 (9) Creditors of the board of trustees and of employers liable for the benefits paid under this
- 52 chapter may not seize, attach, or otherwise obtain assets of the trust fund.

53 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

54 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.