

1 **Law Enforcement Salary Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Ryan D. Wilcox**

Senate Sponsor:

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2 **LONG TITLE**3 **Committee Note:**

4 The Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee recommended this bill.

5 Legislative Vote: 10 voting for 0 voting against 6 absent

7 **General Description:**8 This bill addresses the salary range and proposed pay progression for law enforcement  
9 officers within the Division of Natural Resources (DNR).10 **Highlighted Provisions:**

11 This bill:

12 ▶ requires that the salary range and proposed pay progression for law enforcement officers  
13 employed by the DNR be equivalent to the salary range and pay progression for peace  
14 officers employed by the Department of Public Safety;15 ▶ provides an exception to the requirement described in the preceding paragraph in relation  
16 to the rank of major and the position of division director in the DNR; and

17 ▶ makes technical changes.

18 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

19 None

20 **Other Special Clauses:**

21 None

22 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**23 **AMENDS:**24 **63A-17-110**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 154

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25 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*26 Section 1. Section **63A-17-110** is amended to read:27 **63A-17-110 . State pay plans for DNR law enforcement officers and wildland  
28 firefighters.**

29 (1) As used in this section:

31 (a) "Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands" means the division created in Section  
32 65A-1-4 within the Department of Natural Resources.

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

35 (c) "DNR law enforcement officer" means an employee of the Department of Natural  
36 Resources who is designated as a law enforcement officer by law.

37 (d) "Wildland firefighter" means an employee of the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State  
38 Lands who is:  
39 (i) trained in firefighter techniques; and  
40 (ii) assigned to a position of hazardous duty.

41 (2) The director shall:

42 (a) coordinate directly with the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands and the  
43 Division of Law Enforcement to establish specialized state pay plans for DNR law  
44 enforcement officers and wildland firefighters that:  
45 (i) [meets] meet the requirements of Section 63A-17-307;  
46 (ii) [distinguishes] subject to Subsection (3), establish the salary range and proposed  
47 pay progression for each DNR [peace] law enforcement officer;  
48 (iii) [distinguishes] establish the salary range for each wildland firefighter  
49 classification;  
50 (iv) [includes] include for each DNR law enforcement officer and wildland firefighter  
51 classification:  
52 (A) the minimum qualifications; and  
53 (B) any training requirements; and  
54 (v) [provides] provide standards for:  
55 (A) performance evaluation; and  
56 (B) promotion; and  
57 (b) include, in the plan described in Subsection 63A-17-307(5), recommendations on  
58 funding and salary increases for DNR law enforcement officers and wildland  
59 firefighters.

60 (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), the salary range and proposed pay  
61 progression established for each DNR law enforcement officer under Subsection  
62 (2)(a)(ii) shall be equivalent to the salary range and proposed pay progression of a  
63 peace officer employed by the Department of Public Safety with similar years of  
64 service and qualifications.

65 (b) The executive director of the Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with  
66 the director of the Division of Law Enforcement, may reduce the salary range and  
67 proposed pay progression that would otherwise be established, under Subsections  
68 (2)(a)(ii) and (3)(a), for the rank of major or for division director within the Division  
69 of Law Enforcement, to ensure that the salary range and proposed pay progression  
70 for those positions do not exceed the salary range and proposed pay progression of  
71 directors of other divisions within the Department of Natural Resources.

72 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

73 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.