

Ryan D. Wilcox proposes the following substitute bill:

1 **Law Enforcement Salary Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Ryan D. Wilcox**

Senate Sponsor: Derrin R. Owens

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3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill addresses the salary range and proposed pay progression for law enforcement  
6 officers within the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

7 **Highlighted Provisions:**

8 This bill:

9 ▶ requires that the salary range and proposed pay progression for law enforcement officers  
10 employed by the DNR be equivalent to the salary range and pay progression for peace  
11 officers employed by the Department of Public Safety;

12 ▶ provides an exception to the requirement described in the preceding paragraph in relation  
13 to the rank of major and the position of division director in the DNR; and

14 ▶ makes technical changes.

15 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

16 This bill appropriates \$2,839,300 in operating and capital budgets for fiscal year 2027, all  
17 of which is from the General Fund.

18 **Other Special Clauses:**

19 None

20 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

21 AMENDS:

22 **63A-17-110**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 154

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

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

26 **63A-17-110 . State pay plans for DNR law enforcement officers and wildland  
27 firefighters.**

28 (1) As used in this section:

29 (a) "Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands" means the division created in Section

30                   65A-1-4 within the Department of Natural Resources.

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

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

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

39                   (2) The director shall:

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

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

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

70           **Section 2. FY 2027 Appropriations.**

71           The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,  
72           2026, and ending June 30, 2027. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for  
73           fiscal year 2027.

74           **Subsection 2(a). Operating and Capital Budgets**

75           Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, the  
76           Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts indicated for  
77           the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

78           ITEM 1    To Department of Natural Resources - Law Enforcement

79           From General Fund	2,839,300
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80           Schedule of Programs:

81           Law Enforcement Administration	2,839,300
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82           **Section 3. Effective Date.**

83           This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.