

Derrin R. Owens 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

---

---

2 **LONG TITLE**

3 **General Description:**

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

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

8     ▶ to the extent appropriations are made for this purpose, requires the executive director of  
9 the Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with the Division of Human  
10 Resource Management, to increase the salary range and proposed pay progression for  
11 DNR law enforcement officers; and  
12     ▶ makes technical changes.

13 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

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

16 **Other Special Clauses:**

17     None

18 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

19 **AMENDS:**

20     **63A-17-110**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 154

---

---

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

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

23     **63A-17-110 . State pay plans for DNR law enforcement officers and wildland**  
24 **firefighters.**

25     (1) As used in this section:

26         (a) "Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands" means the division created in Section  
27         65A-1-4 within the Department of Natural Resources.

30 (b) "Division of Law Enforcement" means the division created in Section 79-2-702  
31 within the Department of Natural Resources.  
32 (c) "DNR law enforcement officer" means an employee of the Department of Natural  
33 Resources who is designated as a law enforcement officer by law.  
34 (d) "Wildland firefighter" means an employee of the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State  
35 Lands who is:  
36 (i) trained in firefighter techniques; and  
37 (ii) assigned to a position of hazardous duty.

38 (2) The director shall:

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

57 (3) To the extent that the Legislature appropriates funds for this purpose, the executive  
58 director of the Department of Natural Resources shall, in cooperation with the Division  
59 of Human Resource Management, increase the salary range and proposed pay  
60 progression for DNR law enforcement officers to be more consistent with the salary  
61 range and pay progression of other state law enforcement officers.

62 **Section 2. FY 2027 Appropriations.**

63 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,

64 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for  
65 fiscal year 2027.

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

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

70 ITEM 1 To Department of Natural Resources - Law Enforcement

71 From General Fund 2,839,300

72 Schedule of Programs:

73 Law Enforcement Administration 2,839,300

74 The Legislature intends that the Department of  
75 Natural Resources use the money appropriated under  
76 ITEM 1 for the purpose described in Subsection  
77 63A-17-110(3).

78 **Section 3. Effective Date.**

79 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.