

**Line-of-Duty Death Benefit Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Derrin R. Owens**

House Sponsor:

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**LONG TITLE****General Description:**

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

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

▸ provides that the Local Public Safety and Firefighter Surviving Spouse Trust Fund Board of Trustees may use money in the Local Public Safety and Firefighter Surviving Spouse Trust Fund to pay for certain previously incurred employer costs related to health coverage for a surviving spouse and dependent children following a line-of-duty death.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**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:*

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

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

(1) There is created a private purpose trust fund entitled the "Local Public Safety and Firefighter Surviving Spouse Trust Fund."

(2) The trust fund consists of:

- (a) fees established in Subsection 53-17-402(2)(a);
- (b) appropriations made to the fund by the Legislature, if any;
- (c) private donations and grants; and
- (d) other revenue received from other sources.

(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.