

1                                   **SCHOLARSHIPS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS**

2   2017 GENERAL SESSION

3   STATE OF UTAH

4                                   **Chief Sponsor: Karen Mayne**

5                                   House Sponsor: Lee B. Perry

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7 **LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

9           This bill creates the Public Safety Officer Career Advancement Scholarship program  
10 under the State Board of Regents.

11 **Highlighted Provisions:**

12           This bill:

- 13           ▶ creates the Public Safety Officer Career Advancement Scholarship program to  
14 provide up to \$5,000 annually for qualified applicants;
- 15           ▶ appropriates funds for the Public Safety Officer Career Advancement Scholarship  
16 program;
- 17           ▶ dedicates a portion of the scholarship funds for officers currently working in smaller  
18 counties;
- 19           ▶ requires that an individual who receives a scholarship through the Public Safety  
20 Officer Career Advancement Scholarship program continue to work with their  
21 current law enforcement agency for an additional year for each year that they apply  
22 for and receive scholarship funds;
- 23           ▶ requires an individual to reimburse the State Board of Regents for any scholarship  
24 money awarded to them if they fail to comply with the requirements of the  
25 scholarship; and
- 26           ▶ requires the board to annually report on the scholarship program to the Higher  
27 Education Appropriations Subcommittee.



28 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

29 This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2018:

- 30 ▶ to the State Board of Regents – Student Assistance, as an ongoing appropriation:
- 31 • from the Education Fund, \$200,000.

32 **Other Special Clauses:**

33 None

34 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

35 ENACTS:

36 **53B-8-112**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

37 **53B-8-113**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

40 Section 1. Section **53B-8-112** is enacted to read:

41 **53B-8-112. Public Safety Officer Career Advancement Scholarship.**

42 (1) The Public Safety Officer Career Advancement Scholarship program is created.

43 (2) A Public Safety Officer Career Advancement Scholarship may only be used at:

44 (a) a credit-granting higher education institution within the state system of higher  
45 education, described in Section **53B-1-102**; or

46 (b) a private, nonprofit college or university in the state that is accredited by the  
47 Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges.

48 (3) A scholarship authorized in this section may only be awarded to an applicant who:

49 (a) is a certified public safety officer, currently employed by a law enforcement agency  
50 within the state;

51 (b) has been employed as a certified public safety officer for three or more consecutive  
52 years; and

53 (c) is seeking a post-secondary degree in the area of criminal justice.

54 (4) Subject to Legislative appropriations, of the funds appropriated for the Public  
55 Safety Officer Career Advancement Scholarship program:

56 (a) \$50,000 each year shall be designated for applicants who are currently employed by  
57 a law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in a county of the third or fourth class; and

58 (b) \$25,000 each year shall be designated for applicants who are currently employed by

59 a law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in a county of the fifth or sixth class.

60 (5) The board may grant a leave of absence to a scholarship holder, but the applicant  
61 may only receive scholarship money within eight years of the initial application for a  
62 scholarship.

63 (6) (a) For each year that the applicant is awarded a scholarship from the Public Safety  
64 Officer Career Advancement Scholarship program, the applicant shall remain employed with  
65 that law enforcement agency for an additional year after being awarded a scholarship.

66 (b) If an applicant is awarded a scholarship authorized by this section and fails to  
67 comply with the provisions of Subsection (6)(a), the applicant shall reimburse the board for any  
68 scholarship funds awarded to the applicant under this section.

69 (7) The board shall:

70 (a) adopt policies establishing the application process and an appeal process for a  
71 scholarship from the Public Safety Officer Career Advancement Scholarship program,  
72 including procedures to allow for online application submittals; and

73 (b) include a disclosure on all applications and related materials that the amount of the  
74 awarded scholarships may be subject to funding or be reduced, in accordance with Subsection  
75 (8).

76 (8) (a) Subject to future budget constraints, the Legislature shall make an annual  
77 appropriation from the Education Fund to the board for the costs associated with the Public  
78 Safety Officer Career Advancement Scholarship program authorized under this section.

79 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, if the appropriation under this  
80 section is insufficient to cover the costs associated with the Public Safety Officer Career  
81 Advancement Scholarship program, the board may reduce the amount of any scholarship.

82 (9) The board shall set deadlines for receiving scholarship applications and supporting  
83 documentation.

84 (10) The amount of each scholarship awarded from the Public Safety Officer Career  
85 Advancement Scholarship program is up to \$5,000 each year, per applicant.

86 Section 2. Section **53B-8-113** is enacted to read:

87 **53B-8-113. Reporting.**

88 The board shall report annually on the Public Safety Officer Career Advancement  
89 Scholarship program no later than December 1 to the Higher Education Appropriations

90 Subcommittee regarding the following information for the previous calendar year:

91 (1) the number of certified public safety officer applicants for scholarship;

92 (2) the number of scholarships awarded from the Public Safety Officer Career

93 Advancement Scholarship program; and

94 (3) the total amount in scholarships awarded.

95 **Section 3. Appropriation.**

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

97 2017, and ending June 30, 2018. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for

98 fiscal year 2018. Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures

99 Act, the Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts

100 indicated for the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

101 To State Board of Regents -- Student Assistance

102 From Education Fund

\$200,000

103 Schedule of Programs:

104 Public Safety Officer Career Advancement

105 Scholarship Program

\$200,000

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**Legislative Review Note**

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**