{deleted text} shows text that was in HB0067 but was deleted in HB0067S01.

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0067 but was inserted into HB0067S01.

DISCLAIMER: This document is provided to assist you in your comparison of the two bills. Sometimes this automated comparison will NOT be completely accurate. Therefore, you need to read the actual bills. This automatically generated document could contain inaccuracies caused by: limitations of the compare program; bad input data; or other causes.

Senator Don L. Ipson proposes the following substitute bill:

FIRST RESPONDER MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES GRANT{ }_PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

2024 GENERAL SESSION STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor:

Ryan D. Wilcox

Senate Sponsor:

→ Don L. Ipson

LONG TITLE

Committee Note:

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

Legislative Vote: 11 voting for 0 voting against 7 absent

General Description:

This bill amends the First Responder Mental Health Services Grant Program (program).

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- {expands} amends eligibility for the program;
- expands institutions at which a recipient may use a grant under the program;

- amends the computation of the grant amount;
- modifies the Utah Board of Higher Education's responsibilities related to accepting applications for the programs; and
- makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53B-8-117, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 74

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

Section 1. Section 53B-8-117 is amended to read:

53B-8-117. First Responder Mental Health Services Grant Program.

- (1) As used in this section:
- (a) "First responder" means an individual who works in Utah as:
- (i) a law enforcement officer, as defined in Section 53-13-103;
- (ii) an emergency medical technician, as defined in Section 53-2e-101;
- (iii) an advanced emergency medical technician, as defined in Section 53-2e-101;
- (iv) a paramedic, as defined in Section 53-2e-101;
- (v) a firefighter, as defined in Section 34A-3-113;
- (vi) a dispatcher, as defined in Section 53-6-102;
- (vii) a correctional officer, as defined in Section 53-13-104;
- (viii) a special function officer, as defined in Section 53-13-105, employed by a local

sheriff;

- (ix) a search and rescue worker under the supervision of a local sheriff;
- (x) a forensic interviewer or victim advocate employed by a children's justice center established in accordance with Section 67-5b-102;
- (xi) a credentialed criminal justice system victim advocate as defined in Section 77-38-403 who responds to incidents with a law enforcement officer;

- (xii) a crime scene investigator technician;
- (xiii) a wildland firefighter;
- (xiv) an investigator or prosecutor of cases involving sexual crimes against children; or
- (xv) a civilian employee of a first responder agency who has been authorized to view or otherwise access information concerning crimes, accidents, or other traumatic events.
- (\fartarrow\beta) "First responder agency" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-21-101.
- { (b) "Retiree" means the same as that term is defined in Section 49-11-102.
- (c) "{Volunteer}First responder volunteer" means:
- (i) an individual who donates services <u>as a first responder</u> to a first responder agency <u>located in Utah</u> without pay or other compensation except:
- (A) expenses that the individual actually and reasonably incurs as the supervising first responder agency approves; and
- (B) health insurance that a participant in the Volunteer Emergency Medical Service Personnel Health Insurance Program described in Section 26-8a-603 receives; or
- (ii) a volunteer firefighter who is not regularly employed as a firefighter service employee, but who:
 - (A) has received training in firefighter techniques and skills;
 - (B) continues to receive regular firefighter training; and
- (C) is on the rolls of a legally organized volunteer fire department that provides ongoing training and serves a political subdivision of the state.
 - (d) "Retiree" means the same as that term is defined in Section 49-11-102.
 - (2) This section creates the First Responder Mental Health Services Grant Program.
- [(2)] (3) Subject to legislative appropriations and Subsection [(6)] (8), the board shall award a grant to an applicant who:
- (a) is <u>a [{a } full-time{}] an}</u> employee{ <u>of a first responder agency, a volunteer,}</u> or a retiree{[]}, as that term is defined in Section 49-11-102, who is an active member of or has qualified for an allowance under the requirements of:{]
 - [}_(i) Title 49, Chapter 14, Public Safety Contributory Retirement Act; {}
- [}_(ii) Title 49, Chapter 15, Public Safety Noncontributory Retirement Act;{]
- [}_(iii) Title 49, Chapter 16, Firefighters' Retirement Act; or{]

- [}_(iv) Title 49, Chapter 23, New Public Safety and Firefighter Tier II Contributory

 Retirement Act; [from] first responder, a first responder {agency;} volunteer, or a retiree who worked as a first responder in the state; and
- (b) is seeking a post-secondary degree or certification to become a mental health therapist, as that term is defined in Section 58-60-102, <u>from:</u>
- (i) an institution of higher education within the state system of higher education, described in Section 53B-1-102; or
- (ii) a private, nonprofit institution of higher education in the state that is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.
- [(3)] (4) (a) Subject to Subsection [(3)(b)] (4)(b), the board may award a qualified applicant [up to the cost of tuition and fees.] a grant in an amount that is equal to the difference between:
- (i) the total cost of tuition and fees for the program in which the recipient is enrolled; and
- (ii) the total value of all other grants, tuition waivers, fee waivers, and scholarships that the recipient receives to attend the institution.
 - (b) A grant award under Subsection [(3)(a)] (4)(a) is limited to:
 - (i) a maximum of \$6,000 each academic year; and
 - (ii) a maximum of four academic years.
- [(4)] (5) The board shall design the program to ensure that institutions combine loans, grants, employment, and family and individual contributions toward financing the cost of attendance.
 - (6) The board shall:
- (a) select two periods during each calendar year to accept applications for the program; and
- (b) accept applications for no fewer than 30 days during each period described in Subsection (6)(a).
- [(5)] (7) (a) The board shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to:
 - (i) set deadlines for receiving grant applications and supporting documentation; and
 - (ii) establish the application process and an appeal process for the First Responder

Mental Health Services Grant Program.

- (b) The board shall include a disclosure on all applications and related materials that the amount of the awarded grants may be subject to funding or be reduced, in accordance with Subsection [(6)] (8).
- [(6)] (8) (a) Subject to future budget constraints, the Legislature shall make an annual appropriation from the Income Tax Fund to the board for the costs associated with the First Responder Mental Health Services Grant Program authorized under this section.
- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, if the appropriation under this section is insufficient to cover the costs associated with the First Responder Mental Health Services Grant Program, the board may:
 - (i) reduce the amount of a grant; or
- (ii) distribute grants on a pro rata basis to all eligible applicants who submitted a complete application before the application deadline.

Section 2. Effective date.

This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.