

**SCHOLARSHIPS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS**

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Karen Mayne**

House Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

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



**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2018:

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

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(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

Subcommittee regarding the following information for the previous calendar year:

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

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

Advancement Scholarship program; and

(3) the total amount in scholarships awarded.

Section 3. **Appropriation.**

The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2018. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for fiscal year 2018. Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, the Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts indicated for the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

To State Board of Regents -- Student Assistance

From Education Fund

\$200,000

Schedule of Programs:

Public Safety Officer Career Advancement

Scholarship Program

\$200,000

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Legislative Review Note  
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel