1 **REIMBURSEMENTS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS**

2 2017 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

4 **Chief Sponsor: Karen Mayne**

5 House Sponsor: Lee B. Perry

6

7 **LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

9 　　This bill creates the Peace Officer Career Advancement Reimbursement program under

10 the State Board of Regents.

11 **Highlighted Provisions:**

12 　　This bill:

13 　　▸ creates the Peace Officer Career Advancement Reimbursement program to provide

14 up to $5,000 annually for qualified applicants;

15 　　▸ appropriates funds for the Peace Officer Career Advancement Reimbursement

16 program;

17 　　▸ dedicates a portion of the reimbursement funds for officers currently employed in

18 smaller counties;

19 　　▸ requires that an individual who receives a reimbursement through the Peace Officer

20 Career Advancement Reimbursement Program continue to be employed with the

21 individual's current law enforcement agency for an additional year for each year that

22 the individual applies for and receives reimbursement funds; and

23 　　▸ requires the board to annually report on the reimbursement program to the Higher

24 Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

25 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

26 　　This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2018:

27 　　▸ to the State Board of Regents – Student Assistance, as an ongoing appropriation:

28 　　　　• from the Education Fund, $200,000.

29 **Other Special Clauses:**

30   None

31 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

32 ENACTS:

33   **53B-8-112**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

34   **53B-8-113**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

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

38   **53B-8-112. Public Safety Officer Career Advancement Scholarship.**

39   (1) The Public Safety Officer Career Advancement Reimbursement Program is created.

40   (2) Subject to legislative appropriations and Subsection (7) the board shall reimburse

41 an applicant who:

42   (a) is a certified peace officer, currently employed by a law enforcement agency within

43 the state;

44   (b) has been employed as a certified peace officer for three or more consecutive years;

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

46 credit-granting higher education institution within the state system of higher education,

47 described in Section 53B-1-102; and

48   (d) is employed as a peace officer for one year following completion of the academic

49 year for which the individual is seeking reimbursement.

50   (3) Individuals who qualify for reimbursement from the Public Safety Officer Career

51 Advancement Reimbursement program may apply for reimbursement by July 1 one year after

52 each academic year for which they are requesting reimbursement.

53   (4) Subject to Legislative appropriations, of the funds appropriated for the Peace

54 Officer Career Advancement Reimbursement Program:

55   (a) 25% of the annual appropriation shall be designated for applicants who are

56 currently employed by a law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in a county of the third or

57 fourth class; and

58 (b) 12% of the annual appropriation shall be designated for applicants who are

59 currently employed by a law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in a county of the fifth or

60 sixth class.

61 (5) (a) A qualified applicant may be reimbursed up to half of the cost of tuition and

62 fees.

63 (b) A reimbursement under Subsection (5)(a) is limited to:

64 (i) a maximum of $5,000 each academic year; and

65 (ii) a maximum of eight academic years.

66 (6) (a) The board shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah

67 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to:

68 (i) set deadlines for receiving reimbursement applications and supporting

69 documentation; and

70 (ii) establish the application process and an appeal process for a reimbursement from

71 the Peace Officer Career Advancement Reimbursement Program, including procedures to

72 allow for online application submittals.

73 (b) The board shall include a disclosure on all applications and related materials that

74 the amount of the awarded reimbursements may be subject to funding or be reduced, in

75 accordance with Subsection (7).

76 (7) (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 Peace

78 Officer Career Advancement Reimbursement 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 Peace Officer Career Advancement

81 Reimbursement Program, the board may reduce the amount of a reimbursement.

82 (c) Any individual who is denied reimbursement because of insufficient funds

83 appropriated may re-apply for reimbursement up to two years after the first year of eligibility.

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

85   **53B-8-113. Reporting.**

86   No later than December 1, the board shall report annually on the Public Safety Officer

87 Career Advancement Reimbursement program to the Higher Education Appropriations

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

89   (1) the number of certified peace officer applicants for reimbursement;

90   (2) the number of reimbursements awarded from the Peace Officer Career

91 Advancement Reimbursement Program; and

92   (3) the total amount in reimbursements awarded.

93   Section 3. **Appropriation.**

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

95 2017, and ending June 30, 2018. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for

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

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

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

99   To State Board of Regents -- Student Assistance

100   From Education Fund $200,000

101   Schedule of Programs:

102   Public Safety Officer Career Advancement

103   Reimbursement $200,000