

LAW ENFORCEMENT TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

2020 SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Karen Mayne

House Sponsor: Lee B. Perry

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill reopens the Public Safety Officer Career Advancement Reimbursement Program for new applicants.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ removes a prohibition on new applicants to the Public Safety Officer Career Advancement Reimbursement Program;
- ▶ provides for pro rata reimbursement distributions for eligible applicants in certain circumstances;
- ▶ repeals a repeal date; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53B-8-112, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 444

53B-8-114, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 444

63I-2-253, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Fifth Special Session, Chapter 7

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

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

31 **53B-8-112. Public Safety Officer Career Advancement Reimbursement Program.**

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

33 ~~[(2) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions in this section, the board may not accept a new~~
34 ~~application for a reimbursement described in this section for an academic year that begins on or~~
35 ~~after July 1, 2019;]~~

36 ~~[(b)]~~ (2) Subject to legislative appropriations and Subsection (7) the board shall
37 reimburse an applicant who:

38 ~~[(i)]~~ (a) is a certified peace officer, currently employed by a law enforcement agency
39 within the state;

40 ~~[(ii)]~~ (b) has been employed as a certified peace officer for three or more consecutive
41 years;

42 ~~[(iii)]~~ (c) is seeking a post-secondary degree in the area of criminal justice from a
43 credit-granting higher education institution within the state system of higher education,
44 described in Section **53B-1-102**; and

45 ~~[(iv)]~~ (d) is employed as a peace officer for one year following completion of the
46 academic year for which the individual is seeking reimbursement.

47 (3) Individuals who qualify for reimbursement from the Public Safety Officer Career
48 Advancement Reimbursement Program may apply for reimbursement by July 1 one year after
49 each academic year for which they are requesting reimbursement.

50 (4) Subject to Legislative appropriations, of the funds appropriated for the Public
51 Safety Officer Career Advancement Reimbursement Program:

52 (a) 25% of the annual appropriation shall be designated for applicants who are
53 currently employed by a law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in a county of the third or
54 fourth class; and

55 (b) 12% 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 fifth or
57 sixth class.

58 (5) (a) A qualified applicant may be reimbursed up to half of the cost of tuition and
59 fees.

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

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

62 (ii) a maximum of eight academic years.

63 (6) (a) The board shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
64 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to:

65 (i) set deadlines for receiving reimbursement applications and supporting
66 documentation; and

67 (ii) establish the application process and an appeal process for a reimbursement from
68 the Public Safety Officer Career Advancement Reimbursement Program, including procedures
69 to allow for online application submittals.

70 (b) The board shall include a disclosure on all applications and related materials that
71 the amount of the awarded reimbursements may be subject to funding or be reduced, in
72 accordance with Subsection (7).

73 (7) (a) Subject to future budget constraints, the Legislature shall make an annual
74 appropriation from the Education Fund to the board for the costs associated with the Public
75 Safety Officer Career Advancement Reimbursement Program authorized under this section.

76 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, if the appropriation under this
77 section is insufficient to cover the costs associated with the Public Safety Officer Career
78 Advancement Reimbursement Program, the board:

79 (i) may reduce the amount of a reimbursement[-]; and

80 (ii) shall distribute reimbursements on a pro rata basis to all eligible applicants who
81 submitted a complete application before the application deadline.

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-8-114** is amended to read:

85 **53B-8-114. Continuation of previously authorized scholarships.**

86 (1) As used in this section:

87 (a) "Institution of higher education" means an institution that awards money through a
88 program described in Subsection (2)(a).

89 (b) "Scholarship term" means the length of time during which an individual is eligible
90 to receive award money through a program described in Subsection (2)(a).

91 (2) The board or an institution of higher education:

92 (a) beginning on July 1, 2019, may not accept a new application for an award described
93 in~~[(i)]~~ Section ~~53B-6-105.7~~, which describes engineering and computer technology
94 scholarships; ~~[or] and~~

95 ~~[(ii) Section 53B-8-112, which describes a reimbursement for public safety officers;~~
96 ~~and]~~

97 (b) may pay, through the end of the scholarship term, an award through a program
98 described in Subsection (2)(a) to an individual whose application for the program was accepted
99 before the applicable date described in Subsection (2)(a).

100 Section 3. Section **63I-2-253** is amended to read:

101 **63I-2-253. Repeal dates -- Titles 53 through 53G.**

102 (1) (a) Section ~~53-2a-217~~, regarding procurement during an epidemic or pandemic
103 emergency, is repealed on December 31, 2021.

104 (b) When repealing Section ~~53-2a-217~~, the Office of Legislative Research and General
105 Counsel shall, in addition to the office's authority under Subsection ~~36-12-12(3)~~, make
106 necessary changes to subsection numbering and cross references.

107 (2) Section ~~53B-2a-103~~ is repealed July 1, 2021.

108 (3) Section ~~53B-2a-104~~ is repealed July 1, 2021.

109 (4) (a) Subsection ~~53B-2a-108(5)~~, regarding exceptions to the composition of a
110 technical college board of trustees, is repealed July 1, 2022.

111 (b) When repealing Subsection ~~53B-2a-108(5)~~, the Office of Legislative Research and
112 General Counsel shall, in addition to its authority under Subsection ~~36-12-12(3)~~, make
113 necessary changes to subsection numbering and cross references.

114 (5) Section 53B-6-105.7 is repealed July 1, 2024.

115 (6) (a) Subsection 53B-7-705(6)(b)(ii)(A), the language that states "Except as provided
116 in Subsection (6)(b)(ii)(B)," is repealed July 1, 2021.

117 (b) Subsection 53B-7-705(6)(b)(ii)(B), regarding comparing a technical college's
118 change in performance with the technical college's average performance, is repealed July 1,
119 2021.

120 (7) (a) Subsection 53B-7-707(3)(a)(ii), the language that states "Except as provided in
121 Subsection (3)(b)," is repealed July 1, 2021.

122 (b) Subsection 53B-7-707(3)(b), regarding performance data of a technical college
123 during a fiscal year before fiscal year 2020, is repealed July 1, 2021.

124 [~~(8)~~ Section 53B-8-112 is repealed July 1, 2024.]

125 [(9)] (8) Section 53B-8-114 is repealed July 1, 2024.

126 [(10)] (9) (a) The following sections, regarding the Regents' scholarship program, are
127 repealed on July 1, 2023:

128 (i) Section 53B-8-202;

129 (ii) Section 53B-8-203;

130 (iii) Section 53B-8-204; and

131 (iv) Section 53B-8-205.

132 (b) (i) Subsection 53B-8-201(2), regarding the Regents' scholarship program for
133 students who graduate from high school before fiscal year 2019, is repealed on July 1, 2023.

134 (ii) When repealing Subsection 53B-8-201(2), the Office of Legislative Research and
135 General Counsel shall, in addition to its authority under Subsection 36-12-12(3), make
136 necessary changes to subsection numbering and cross references.

137 [(11)] (10) Section 53B-10-101 is repealed on July 1, 2027.

138 [(12)] (11) Title 53B, Chapter 18, Part 14, Uintah Basin Air Quality Research Project,
139 is repealed July 1, 2023.

140 [(13)] (12) Section 53E-3-519 regarding school counselor services is repealed July 1,
141 2020.

- 142 [~~(14)~~] (13) Section [53E-3-520](#) is repealed July 1, 2021.
- 143 [~~(15)~~] (14) Subsection [53E-5-306](#)(3)(b)(ii)(B), related to improving school
144 performance and continued funding relating to the School Recognition and Reward Program, is
145 repealed July 1, 2020.
- 146 [~~(16)~~] (15) Section [53E-5-307](#) is repealed July 1, 2020.
- 147 [~~(17)~~] (16) Subsection [53E-10-309](#)(7), related to the PRIME pilot program, is repealed
148 July 1, 2024.
- 149 [~~(18)~~] (17) In Subsections [53F-2-205](#)(4) and (5), regarding the State Board of
150 Education's duties if contributions from the minimum basic tax rate are overestimated or
151 underestimated, the language that states "or [53F-2-301.5](#), as applicable" is repealed July 1,
152 2023.
- 153 [~~(19)~~] (18) Subsection [53F-2-301](#)(1), relating to the years the section is not in effect, is
154 repealed July 1, 2023.
- 155 [~~(20)~~] (19) In Subsection [53F-2-515](#)(1), the language that states "or [53F-2-301.5](#), as
156 applicable" is repealed July 1, 2023.
- 157 [~~(21)~~] (20) Section [53F-4-207](#) is repealed July 1, 2022.
- 158 [~~(22)~~] (21) In Subsection [53F-9-302](#)(3), the language that states "or [53F-2-301.5](#), as
159 applicable" is repealed July 1, 2023.
- 160 [~~(23)~~] (22) In Subsection [53F-9-305](#)(3)(a), the language that states "or [53F-2-301.5](#), as
161 applicable" is repealed July 1, 2023.
- 162 [~~(24)~~] (23) In Subsection [53F-9-306](#)(3)(a), the language that states "or [53F-2-301.5](#), as
163 applicable" is repealed July 1, 2023.
- 164 [~~(25)~~] (24) In Subsection [53G-3-304](#)(1)(c)(i), the language that states "or [53F-2-301.5](#),
165 as applicable" is repealed July 1, 2023.
- 166 [~~(26)~~] (25) Subsections [53G-10-204](#)(1)(c) through (e), and Subsection [53G-10-204](#)(7),
167 related to the civics engagement pilot program, are repealed on July 1, 2023.
- 168 [~~(27)~~] (26) On July 1, 2023, when making changes in this section, the Office of
169 Legislative Research and General Counsel shall, in addition to the office's authority under

170 Subsection 36-12-12(3), make corrections necessary to ensure that sections and subsections
171 identified in this section are complete sentences and accurately reflect the office's perception of
172 the Legislature's intent.

173 Section 4. **Effective date.**

174 If approved by two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, this bill takes effect
175 upon approval by the governor, or the day following the constitutional time limit of Utah
176 Constitution, Article VII, Section 8, without the governor's signature, or in the case of a veto,
177 the date of veto override.