

701—304.49(422) Volunteer fire fighter, volunteer emergency medical services personnel member, and reserve peace officer tax credit. Effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, a tax credit is available for individual income tax for volunteer fire fighters, volunteer emergency medical services (EMS) personnel members, and reserve peace officers.

304.49(1) Definitions. The following definitions are applicable to this rule:

“*Emergency medical services personnel member*” or “*EMS personnel member*” means an emergency medical care provider, as defined in Iowa Code section 147A.1, who is certified as a first responder in accordance with Iowa Code chapter 147A. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, “emergency medical services personnel member” or “EMS personnel member” also includes an individual who is a paid employee of an emergency medical services program and who is also a volunteer emergency medical services personnel member in a city, county, or area governed by an agreement pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 28E.

“*Reserve peace officer*” means a reserve peace officer as defined in Iowa Code section 80D.1A who has met the minimum state training standards established by the Iowa law enforcement academy in accordance with Iowa Code chapter 80D.

“*Volunteer fire fighter*” means a volunteer fire fighter, as defined in Iowa Code section 85.61, who has met the minimum training standards established by the fire service training bureau pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 100B. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, “volunteer fire fighter” means an individual who is an active member of an organized volunteer fire department in Iowa or is performing services as a volunteer fire fighter for a municipality, township, or benefited fire district at the request of the chief or other person in command and who has met the minimum training standards established by the fire service training bureau pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 100B. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, a volunteer fire fighter also includes an individual who is a paid employee of a fire department and who is also a volunteer fire fighter in a city, county, or area governed by an agreement pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 28E.

304.49(2) Calculation of the credit.

a. The credit is equal to \$250 for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2021, if the volunteer fire fighter, volunteer EMS personnel member, or reserve peace officer was a volunteer for the entire year. The credit is equal to \$50 for tax year 2013 and \$100 for tax years 2014 through 2020.

b. If the individual was not a volunteer fire fighter, volunteer EMS personnel member, or reserve peace officer for the entire calendar year, the credit is prorated based on the number of months the individual was a volunteer. If the individual was a volunteer during any part of a month, the individual will be considered a volunteer for the entire month. The amount of credit will be rounded to the nearest dollar.

EXAMPLE: An individual became a volunteer fire fighter on April 15, 2021, and remained a volunteer for the rest of calendar year 2021. The individual is considered a volunteer for nine months of 2021. The tax credit for 2021 is equal to \$188 (\$250 multiplied by 9/12 equals \$187.50; rounding to the nearest dollar results in a \$188 credit).

c. If an individual holds more than one volunteer position as a volunteer fire fighter, a volunteer EMS personnel member, or a reserve peace officer during the same month, a credit can be claimed for only one volunteer position for that month. For example, if an individual was both a volunteer fire fighter and volunteer EMS personnel member for all of calendar year 2021, the tax credit will equal \$250.

304.49(3) Verification of eligibility for the tax credit. An individual is required to have a written statement from the fire chief or other appropriate supervisor verifying that the individual was a volunteer fire fighter or volunteer EMS personnel member for the months for which the tax credit is being claimed. An individual who is a reserve peace officer must have a written statement from the chief of police, sheriff, commissioner of public safety, or other appropriate supervisor verifying that the individual was a reserve peace officer for the months for which the tax credit is being claimed. The written statement does not have to be attached to a tax return claiming the credit. However, the department may request that the individual provide the written statement.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 422.12.

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