

701—42.49 (422) Volunteer fire fighter, volunteer emergency medical services personnel and reserve peace officer tax credit. Effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2013, a tax credit is available for individual income tax for volunteer fire fighters and volunteer emergency medical services (EMS) personnel. Effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, a tax credit is available for individual income tax for reserve peace officers.

42.49(1) Definitions. The following definitions are applicable to this rule:

“Emergency medical services personnel” or “EMS personnel” 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” or “EMS personnel” 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 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.

42.49(2) Calculation of the credit.

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

b. If the individual was not a volunteer fire fighter or volunteer EMS personnel for the entire 2013 calendar year, the \$50 credit is prorated based on the number of months the individual was a volunteer. Beginning in the 2014 calendar year, if the individual was not a volunteer fire fighter, volunteer EMS personnel or reserve peace officer for the entire year, the \$100 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, 2013, and remained a volunteer for the rest of calendar year 2013. The individual is considered a volunteer for nine months of 2013. The tax credit for 2013 is equal to \$38 (\$50 multiplied by 9/12 equals \$37.50; rounding to the nearest dollar results in a \$38 credit).

c. If an individual is both a volunteer fire fighter and a volunteer EMS personnel during the same month, a credit can be claimed for only one volunteer position for that month. Therefore, if an individual was both a volunteer fire fighter and volunteer EMS personnel for all of 2013, the tax credit will equal \$50. In addition, beginning in calendar year 2014, if a reserve peace officer is also either a volunteer fire fighter or a volunteer EMS personnel, a credit can be claimed for only one volunteer position for that month.

42.49(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 for the months for which the tax credit is being claimed. Beginning with the 2014 tax year, 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 individual may be requested to provide the written statement upon request by the department.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 422.12 as amended by 2014 Iowa Acts, House File 2459.

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