

701—52.7 (422) Research activities credit. Effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 1985, taxpayers are allowed a tax credit equal to 6.5 percent of the state's apportioned share of qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities. For purposes of this credit, "qualifying expenditures" means the qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities as defined for purposes of the federal credit for increasing research activities computed under Section 41 of the Internal Revenue Code. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 1991, "qualifying expenditures" means the qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities as defined for purposes of the federal credit for increasing research activities computed under Section 41 of the Internal Revenue Code as in effect on January 1, 1998. The Iowa research activities credit is made permanent for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 1991, even though there may no longer be a research activities credit for federal income tax purposes. The "state's apportioned share of qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities" must be the ratio of the qualified expenditures in Iowa to total qualified expenditures times total qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities.

52.7(1) *Qualified expenditures in Iowa are:*

- a. Wages for qualified research services performed in Iowa.
- b. Cost of supplies used in conducting qualified research in Iowa.
- c. Rental or lease cost of personal property used in Iowa in conducting qualified research. Where personal property is used both within and without Iowa in conducting qualified research, the rental or lease cost must be prorated between Iowa and non-Iowa use by the ratio of days used in Iowa to total days used both within and without Iowa.
- d. Sixty-five percent of contract expenses paid by a corporation to a qualified organization for basic research performed in Iowa.

52.7(2) *Total qualified expenditures are:*

- a. Wages paid for qualified research services performed everywhere.
- b. Cost of supplies used in conducting qualified research everywhere.
- c. Rental or lease cost of personal property used in conducting qualified research everywhere.
- d. Sixty-five percent of contract expenses paid by a corporation to a qualified organization for basic research performed everywhere.

Qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities is the smallest of the amount by which the qualified research expenses for the taxable year exceed the base period research expenses or 50 percent of the qualified research expenses for the taxable year.

A shareholder in an S corporation may claim the pro-rata share of the Iowa credit for increasing research expenditures on the shareholder's individual income tax return. The S corporation must provide each shareholder with a schedule showing the computation of the corporation's Iowa credit for increasing research expenditures and the shareholder's pro-rata share. The shareholder's pro-rata share of the Iowa credit for increasing research activities must be in the same ratio as the shareholder's pro-rata share in the earnings of the S corporation.

Any research credit in excess of the corporation's tax liability less the credits authorized in Iowa Code sections 422.33, 422.91 and 422.111 may be refunded to the taxpayer or credited to the estimated tax of the taxpayer for the following year.

52.7(3) *Research activities credit for tax years beginning in 2000.* Effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2000, the taxes imposed for corporate income tax purposes will be reduced by a tax credit for increasing research activities.

a. The credit equals the sum of the following:

(1) Six and one-half percent of the excess of qualified research expenses during the tax year over the base amount for the tax year based upon the state's apportioned share of the qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities.

(2) Six and one-half percent of the basic research payments determined under Section 41(e)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code during the tax year based upon the state's apportioned share of the qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities.

The state's apportioned share of the qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities is a percent equal to the ratio of qualified research expenditures in this state to total qualified research expenditures.

b. In lieu of the credit computed under paragraph 52.7(3) "a," a taxpayer may elect to compute the credit amount for qualified research expenses incurred in this state in a manner consistent with the alternative incremental credit described in Section 41(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2000, but beginning before January 1, 2010. The taxpayer may make this election regardless of the method used by the taxpayer on the taxpayer's federal income tax return. The election made under this paragraph is for the tax year and the taxpayer may use another method or this same method for any subsequent tax year.

For purposes of this alternative incremental research credit computation, the credit percentages applicable to qualified research expenses described in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of Section 41(c)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code are 1.65 percent, 2.20 percent, and 2.75 percent, respectively.

c. In lieu of the credit computed under paragraph 52.7(3) "a," a taxpayer may elect to compute the credit amount for qualified research expenses incurred in this state in a manner consistent with the alternative simplified credit described in Section 41(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010. The taxpayer may make this election regardless of the method used by the taxpayer on the taxpayer's federal income tax return. The election made under this paragraph is for the tax year, and the taxpayer may use another method or this same method for any subsequent tax year.

For purposes of this alternative simplified research credit computation, the credit percentages applicable to qualified research expenses described in Section 41(c)(5)(A) and clause (ii) of Section 41(c)(5)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code are 4.55 percent and 1.95 percent, respectively.

d. For purposes of this subrule, the terms "base amount," "basic research payment," and "qualified research expense" mean the same as defined for the federal credit for increasing research activities under Section 41 of the Internal Revenue Code, except that, for purposes of the alternative incremental credit described in paragraph 52.7(3) "b" and the alternative simplified credit described in paragraph 52.7(3) "c," such amounts are limited to research activities conducted within this state. For purposes of this subrule, "Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal Revenue Code in effect on January 1, 2014.

e. A shareholder in an S corporation may claim the pro-rata share of the Iowa credit for increasing research activities on the shareholder's individual return. The S corporation must provide each shareholder with a schedule showing the computation of the corporation's Iowa credit for increasing research activities and the shareholder's pro-rata share. The shareholder's pro-rata share of the Iowa credit for increasing research activities must be in the same ratio as the shareholder's pro-rata share in the earnings of the S corporation.

Any research credit in excess of the corporation's tax liability less the credits authorized in Iowa Code sections 422.33, 422.91 and 422.111 may be refunded to the taxpayer or credited to the estimated tax of the corporation for the following year.

52.7(4) *Research activities credit for an eligible business.* Effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2000, an eligible business may claim a tax credit for increasing research activities in this state during the period the eligible business is participating in the new jobs and income program with the Iowa department of economic development. An eligible business must meet all the conditions listed under Iowa Code section 15.329, which include requirements to make an investment of \$10 million as indexed for inflation and the creation of a minimum of 50 full-time positions. The research credit authorized in this subrule is in addition to the research activities credit described in 701—subrule 42.11(3) or the research credit described in subrule 52.7(3).

a. The additional research activities credit for an eligible business is computed under the criteria for computing the research activities credit under 701—subrule 42.11(3) or under subrule 52.7(3), depending on which of those subrules the initial research credit was computed. The same qualified research expenses and basic research expenses apply in computation of the research credit for an eligible business as were applicable in computing the credit in 701—subrule 42.11(3) or 52.7(3). In addition, if the alternative incremental credit method was used to compute the initial research credit under 701—subrule 42.11(3) or 52.7(3), that method would be used to compute the research credit for an eligible business. Therefore, if a taxpayer that met the qualifications of an eligible business had a research activities credit of \$200,000 as computed under subrule 52.7(3), the research activities credit for the eligible business would result in an additional credit for the taxpayer of \$200,000.

b. If the eligible business is a partnership, S corporation, limited liability company, estate or trust where the income from the eligible business is taxed to the individual owners of the business, these individual owners may claim the additional research activities credit allowed to the eligible business. The research credit is allocated to each of the individual owners of the eligible business on the basis of the pro-rata share of that individual's earnings from the eligible business.

52.7(5) *Corporate tax research credit for increasing research activities within an enterprise zone.* Effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2000, for awards made by the Iowa department of economic development prior to July 1, 2010, the taxes imposed for corporate income tax purposes will be reduced by a tax credit for increasing research activities within an area designated as an enterprise zone. This credit for increasing research activities is in lieu of the research activities credit described in 701—subrule 42.11(3) or the research activities credit described in subrule 52.7(3). For the amount of the credit for increasing research activities within an enterprise zone for awards made by the economic development authority on or after July 1, 2010, see subrule 52.7(6).

a. The credit equals the sum of the following:

(1) Thirteen percent of the excess of qualified research expenses during the tax year over the base amount for the tax year based upon the state's apportioned share of the qualifying expenditures for research activities.

(2) Thirteen percent of the basic research payments determined under Section 41(e)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code during the tax year based upon the state's apportioned share of the qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities. The state's apportioned share of the qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities is a percent equal to the ratio of qualified research expenditures in the enterprise zone to total qualified research expenditures.

b. In lieu of the credit computed under paragraph 52.7(5) "*a.*," a taxpayer may elect to compute the credit amount for qualified research expenses incurred in the enterprise zone in a manner consistent with the alternative incremental credit described in Section 41(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code for tax years beginning prior to January 1, 2010. The taxpayer may make this election regardless of the method used by the taxpayer on the taxpayer's federal income tax return. The election made under this paragraph is for the tax year and the taxpayer may use another method or this same method for any subsequent tax year. For purposes of this alternative research credit computation, the credit percentages applicable to qualified research expenses described in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of Section 41(c)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code are 3.30 percent, 4.40 percent, and 5.50 percent, respectively.

c. In lieu of the credit computed under paragraph 52.7(5) "*a.*," a taxpayer may elect to compute the credit amount for qualified research expenses incurred in the enterprise zone in a manner consistent with the alternative simplified credit described in Section 41(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010. The taxpayer may make this election regardless of the method used by the taxpayer on the taxpayer's federal income tax return. The election made under this paragraph is for the tax year and the taxpayer may use another method or this same method for any subsequent tax year. For purposes of this alternative research credit computation, the credit percentages applicable to qualified research expenses described in Section 41(c)(5)(A) and clause (ii) of Section 41(c)(5)(B) are 9.10 percent and 3.90 percent, respectively.

d. For purposes of this subrule, the terms “base amount,” “basic research payment,” and “qualified research expense” mean the same as defined for the federal credit for increasing research activities under Section 41 of the Internal Revenue Code, except that, for purposes of the alternative incremental credit described in paragraph 52.7(3) “*b*” and the alternative simplified credit described in paragraph 52.7(3) “*c*” of this rule, such amounts are limited to research activities conducted within the enterprise zone. For purposes of this rule, “Internal Revenue Code” means the Internal Revenue Code in effect on January 1, 2014.

e. Any research credit in excess of the corporation’s tax liability for the taxable year may be refunded to the taxpayer or credited to the corporation’s tax liability for the following year.

52.7(6) *Research activities credit for awards made by the Iowa department of economic development on or after July 1, 2010.* For eligible businesses approved under the enterprise zone program by the Iowa department of economic development when an award is made on or after July 1, 2010, the taxes imposed for corporate income tax purposes will be reduced by a tax credit for increasing research activities within an area designated as an enterprise zone. This credit for increasing research activities is in lieu of the research activities credit described in 701—subrule 42.11(3) or the research activities credit described in subrule 52.7(3). The amount of the credit depends upon the gross revenues of the eligible business.

a. The credit equals the sum of the following for eligible businesses with gross revenues of less than \$20 million.

(1) Sixteen and one-half percent of the excess of qualified research expenses during the tax year over the base amount for the tax year based upon the state’s apportioned share of the qualifying expenditures for research activities.

(2) Sixteen and one-half percent of the basic research payments determined under Section 41(e)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code during the tax year based upon the state’s apportioned share of the qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities. The state’s apportioned share of the qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities is a percentage equal to the ratio of qualified research expenditures in the enterprise zone to total qualified research expenditures.

b. The credit equals the sum of the following for eligible businesses with gross revenues of \$20 million or more.

(1) Nine and one-half percent of the excess of qualified research expenses during the tax year over the base amount for the tax year based upon the state’s apportioned share of the qualifying expenditures for research activities.

(2) Nine and one-half percent of the basic research payments determined under Section 41(e)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code during the tax year based upon the state’s apportioned share of the qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities. The state’s apportioned share of the qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities is a percentage equal to the ratio of qualified research expenditures in the enterprise zone to total qualified research expenditures.

c. In lieu of the credit computed under paragraphs 52.7(6) “*a*” and “*b*,” a taxpayer may elect to compute the credit amount for qualified research expenses incurred in the enterprise zone in a manner consistent with the alternative simplified credit described in Section 41(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code. The taxpayer may make this election regardless of the method used by the taxpayer on the taxpayer’s federal income tax return. The election made under this paragraph is for the tax year and the taxpayer may use another method or this same method for any subsequent tax year. For purposes of this alternative research credit computation, the credit percentages applicable to qualified research expenses described in Section 41(c)(5)(A) and clause (ii) of Section 41(c)(5)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code depend upon the gross revenues of the eligible business.

(1) The percentages are 7 percent and 3 percent, respectively, for eligible businesses with gross revenues of less than \$20 million.

(2) The percentages are 2.1 percent and 0.9 percent, respectively, for eligible businesses with gross revenues of \$20 million or more.

d. For purposes of this subrule, the terms “base amount,” “basic research payment,” and “qualified research expense” mean the same as defined for the federal credit for increasing research activities under Section 41 of the Internal Revenue Code, except that, for purposes of the alternative simplified credit described in paragraph 52.7(3)“*c*” of this rule, such amounts are limited to research activities conducted within the enterprise zone. For purposes of this rule, “Internal Revenue Code” means the Internal Revenue Code in effect on January 1, 2014.

e. Any research credit in excess of the corporation’s tax liability for the taxable year may be refunded to the taxpayer or credited to the corporation’s tax liability for the following year.

52.7(7) *Reporting of research activities credit claims.* Beginning with research activities credit claims filed on or after July 1, 2009, the department shall issue an annual report to the general assembly of all research activities credit claims in excess of \$500,000. The report, which is due by February 15 of each year, will contain the name of each claimant and the amount of the research activities credit for all claims filed during the previous calendar year in excess of \$500,000.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 15.335 and 422.33 as amended by 2014 Iowa Acts, House File 2435.

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