

House File 711 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 711

BY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 228)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a length of service award program for
2 volunteer fire fighters, concerning income tax deductions
3 for volunteer fire fighters, making an appropriation, and
4 including effective date provisions.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 100B.2, Code 2019, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 9. Establish a length of service
4 award program for volunteer fire fighters pursuant to the
5 requirements of section 100B.41.

6 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 100B.41 **Length of service award**
7 **program — appropriation.**

8 1. The state fire service and emergency response council,
9 in consultation with the department of administrative services
10 and the office of the treasurer of state, shall establish a
11 length of service award program for volunteer fire fighters as
12 defined in section 85.61. The program shall provide length
13 of service awards, as described in section 457(e)(11) of the
14 Internal Revenue Code, to volunteer fire fighters of a fire
15 department of a municipality, township, or benefited fire
16 district that elects to participate in the program. A decision
17 by a volunteer fire fighter to participate in the program is
18 irrevocable upon acceptance by the program and participation
19 in the program shall be in lieu of an election to deduct from
20 computed tax under section 422.12 a volunteer fire fighter
21 credit. The program shall be designed to treat awards from the
22 program as a tax-deferred benefit under the Internal Revenue
23 Code. The council shall develop and submit to the state fire
24 marshal for adoption rules providing for minimum contribution
25 requirements, eligibility requirements for participation by
26 volunteer fire fighters, minimum vesting requirements, and such
27 other rules as deemed necessary to operate the program.

28 2. There is appropriated from the general fund of the state
29 to the state fire service and emergency response council each
30 fiscal year an amount equal to one hundred dollars for each
31 volunteer fire fighter participating in the length of service
32 award program during that fiscal year for purposes of the
33 program.

34 Sec. 3. Section 422.12, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code
35 2019, is amended to read as follows:

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1 fighters, and such other rules as deemed necessary to operate
2 the program. The bill provides for an appropriation from the
3 general fund to the state fire service and emergency response
4 council of an amount equal to \$100 each fiscal year for each
5 volunteer fire fighter participating in the program.

6 Code section 422.12, concerning deductions from income tax,
7 is amended to eliminate the volunteer fire fighter tax credit
8 equal to \$100 for a volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical
9 services personnel member who is a participant in the length of
10 service award program during the tax year.

11 The bill takes effect January 1, 2020.