

House File 2574 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2574

BY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 750)

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 197)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act authorizing length of service award programs for
2 volunteer fire fighters, volunteer emergency medical
3 care providers, and reserve peace officers, and making
4 appropriations.

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

1 Section 1. Section 99G.39, Code 2022, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 5A. One million dollars in lottery revenues
4 shall be transferred each fiscal year to the length of service
5 award program grant fund created in section 100B.52 prior to
6 deposit of the lottery revenues in the general fund pursuant
7 to section 99G.40.

8 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 100B.51 **Length of service award**
9 **programs — authorization.**

10 The governing body of a municipality, as defined in section
11 100B.21, is authorized to establish a length of service award
12 program for volunteer fire fighters as defined in section
13 85.61, emergency medical care providers as defined in section
14 147A.1 who are volunteers, and reserve peace officers as
15 defined in section 80D.1A. The program shall provide length
16 of service awards, as described in section 457(e)(11) of the
17 Internal Revenue Code, to volunteer fire fighters, volunteer
18 emergency medical care providers, and reserve peace officers
19 serving a municipality that elects to establish a program. The
20 program shall be designed to treat awards from the program as
21 a tax-deferred benefit under the Internal Revenue Code. The
22 governing body of the municipality shall, in consultation with
23 the chief or other person in command of the fire department
24 and police department serving the municipality, as applicable,
25 adopt guidelines providing for eligibility requirements for
26 participation by volunteer fire fighters, volunteer emergency
27 medical care providers, and reserve peace officers, minimum
28 vesting requirements, distribution requirements, and such other
29 guidelines as deemed necessary to operate the program.

30 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 100B.52 **Length of service award**
31 **program grant fund — appropriation.**

32 1. A length of service award program grant fund is created
33 in the state treasury under the control of the state fire
34 service and emergency response council. The fund shall consist
35 of all moneys appropriated to the fund.

1 2. Moneys in the length of service award program grant
2 fund are appropriated to the state fire service and emergency
3 response council for the purpose of providing grants to
4 municipalities that have established a length of service
5 award program as described in section 100B.51 to provide
6 contributions to the program on behalf of participants in the
7 program. The state fire service and emergency response council
8 shall develop and submit to the state fire marshal for adoption
9 rules establishing a grant application process. The state
10 fire service and emergency response council shall consult with
11 the Iowa firefighters association and issue grants based on
12 the recommendations from the Iowa firefighters association.
13 The grant process shall provide for up to a dollar-for-dollar
14 funding match from a municipality that has established a length
15 of service award program.

16 3. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or
17 earnings on moneys deposited in the fund shall be credited to
18 the fund. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys credited to the
19 fund shall not revert at the close of a fiscal year.

20 EXPLANATION

21 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
22 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

23 This bill authorizes a municipality, defined as a city,
24 county, township, benefited fire district, or agency authorized
25 by law to provide emergency response services, to establish
26 a length of service award program as described in section
27 457(e)(11) of the Internal Revenue Code for volunteer fire
28 fighters, volunteer emergency medical care providers, and
29 reserve peace officers. The bill provides that the governing
30 body of a municipality that establishes a program shall, in
31 consultation with the chief or other person in command of the
32 fire department and police department serving the municipality,
33 as applicable, adopt guidelines providing for eligibility
34 requirements for participation by volunteer fire fighters,
35 volunteer emergency medical care providers, and reserve

1 peace officers, minimum vesting requirements, distribution
2 requirements, and such other guidelines as deemed necessary to
3 operate the program.

4 The bill also establishes a length of service award program
5 grant fund under the control of the state fire service and
6 emergency response council (council). Each fiscal year, \$1
7 million in lottery revenues shall be transferred to the fund
8 prior to deposit of lottery revenues in the general fund of
9 the state. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to the council
10 for grants to municipalities that have established a length of
11 service award program to provide contributions to the program
12 on behalf of participants. The bill requires the council to
13 develop and submit to the state fire marshal for adoption rules
14 establishing a grant application process that shall provide for
15 up to a dollar-for-dollar funding match from a municipality
16 that has established a length of service award program. The
17 bill requires the council to consult with the Iowa firefighters
18 association and issue grants based on the association's
19 recommendations.