

House Study Bill 197 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
SAFETY BILL BY CHAIRPERSON
VONDRAN)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing length of service award programs for
2 volunteer fire fighters, volunteer emergency medical care
3 providers, and reserve peace officers, making appropriations,
4 and including effective date provisions.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 99G.39, Code 2025, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

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

8 b. If the length of service award program grant fund is
9 depleted for two consecutive fiscal years, the amount of lottery
10 revenues transferred to the length of service award program grant
11 fund shall increase by five hundred thousand dollars. Moneys in
12 the length of service award program grant fund shall not exceed
13 five million dollars.

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

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

1 county, township, benefited fire district, or agency authorized
2 by law to provide emergency response services, to establish
3 a length of service award program as described in section
4 457(e)(11) of the Internal Revenue Code for volunteer fire
5 fighters, volunteer emergency medical care providers, and reserve
6 peace officers. The bill provides that the governing body of
7 a municipality that establishes a program shall, in consultation
8 with the chief or other person in command of the fire department
9 and police department serving the municipality, as applicable,
10 adopt guidelines providing for eligibility requirements for
11 participation by volunteer fire fighters, volunteer emergency
12 medical care providers, and reserve peace officers, minimum
13 vesting requirements, distribution requirements, and such other
14 guidelines as deemed necessary to operate the program.

15 The bill also establishes a length of service award program
16 grant fund under the control of the department of revenue
17 (department). For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, \$2
18 million in lottery revenues is transferred to the length of
19 service award program grant fund prior to deposit of the lottery
20 revenues in the general fund of the state. This amount shall
21 increase by \$500,000 each time the length of service award
22 program grant fund is depleted for two consecutive years, but
23 moneys in the length of service award program fund shall not
24 exceed \$5 million. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to the
25 department for grants to municipalities that have established
26 a length of service award program to provide contributions
27 to the program on behalf of participants. The bill requires
28 the department to adopt rules establishing a grant application
29 process that shall provide for up to a dollar-for-dollar funding
30 match from a municipality that has established a length of
31 service award program, in an amount not to exceed \$500 per award
32 recipient. If the moneys in the fund are insufficient to pay
33 all eligible grants in a fiscal year, the director of revenue
34 must prorate the moneys to each municipality. The bill also
35 requires the grant process to allow a municipality to use moneys

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1 received from any source for purposes of providing the funding
2 match required by the bill.

3 The bill takes effect January 1, 2026.

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