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1997 Regular Session
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By: Delegates Finifter, Bonsack, Bozman, Cryor, DeCarlo, Frank, Fry, Greenip, Harkins, Heller, Hixson, Holt, Howard, Hurson, Klausmeier, Leopold, Malone, Marriott, McKee, C. Mitchell, Mohorovic, Morhaim, Muse, Nathan-Pulliam, Parker, Ports, Preis, Rosapepe, Rzepkowski, Schade, Shriver, Stull, and Kelly

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Income Tax - Subtraction Modification for Volunteer Police Officers

3 FOR the purpose of providing a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax
4 in certain amounts for certain qualifying volunteer police officers; providing certain
5 criteria for qualification for the subtraction modification; requiring police agencies
6 to maintain certain records and provide certain reports relating to certain volunteer
7 services; requiring each police agency to submit a certain annual report to the
8 Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the Comptroller's
9 Office; providing for a certain penalty under certain circumstances; providing for
10 the application of this Act; and generally relating to a subtraction modification
11 under the Maryland income tax in certain amounts for certain qualifying volunteer
12 police officers.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article - Tax - General
15 Section 10-208(a)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (1988 Volume and 1996 Supplement)

18 BY adding to
19 Article - Tax - General
20 Section 10-208(l)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (1988 Volume and 1996 Supplement)

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
24 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

2

1 **Article - Tax - General**

2 10-208.

3 (a) In addition to the modification under § 10-207 of this subtitle, the amounts
4 under this section are subtracted from the federal adjusted gross income of a resident to
5 determine Maryland adjusted gross income.

6 (L) (1) THE SUBTRACTION UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION
7 INCLUDES AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO \$3,000 IF AN INDIVIDUAL IS A QUALIFYING
8 VOLUNTEER POLICE OFFICER FOR THE TAXABLE YEAR, AS DETERMINED UNDER
9 PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

10 (2) AN INDIVIDUAL IS A QUALIFYING VOLUNTEER POLICE OFFICER
11 FOR THE TAXABLE YEAR ELIGIBLE FOR THE SUBTRACTION MODIFICATION UNDER
12 THIS SUBSECTION IF THE INDIVIDUAL:

13 (I) IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF A BONA FIDE MARYLAND POLICE
14 AGENCY;

15 (II) SERVES THE ORGANIZATION IN A VOLUNTEER CAPACITY
16 WITHOUT COMPENSATION, EXCEPT NOMINAL EXPENSES OR MEALS;

17 (III) 1. QUALIFIES FOR ACTIVE STATUS DURING THE TAXABLE
18 YEAR UNDER:

19 A. A VOLUNTEER POLICE LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD
20 PROGRAM OPERATED BY A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE,
21 IF THE MEMBER QUALIFIES FOR THE LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM
22 UNDER THE POLICE AGENCY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS; OR

23 B. A POINT SYSTEM OR OTHER SYSTEM OF QUALIFICATION
24 ESTABLISHED BY A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION THAT DOES NOT
25 OPERATE A VOLUNTEER POLICE OFFICER LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM,
26 TO IDENTIFY ACTIVE VOLUNTEER POLICE OFFICERS, IF THE QUALIFICATION
27 SYSTEM IS INCORPORATED INTO THE POLICE AGENCY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS;
28 OR

29 2. HAS MAINTAINED ACTIVE STATUS FOR AT LEAST 25
30 YEARS UNDER A VOLUNTEER POLICE LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM OR A
31 QUALIFICATION SYSTEM ESTABLISHED AND INCORPORATED INTO THE POLICE
32 AGENCY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS ESTABLISHED IN LIEU OF A LENGTH OF
33 SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM; AND

34 (IV) WILL HAVE BEEN AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF A BONA FIDE POLICE
35 AGENCY FOR AT LEAST 72 MONTHS DURING THE LAST 10 CALENDAR YEARS BY
36 DECEMBER 31 OF THE TAXABLE YEAR.

37 (3) EACH POLICE AGENCY SHALL:

38 (I) MAINTAIN A RECORD OF THE ACTIVITIES OF EACH
39 VOLUNTEER POLICE OFFICER DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR;

3

1 (II) PROVIDE EACH MEMBER A REPORT BY FEBRUARY 15 OF THE
2 FOLLOWING YEAR INDICATING THAT THE MEMBER QUALIFIED DURING THE
3 PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR; AND

4 (III) PROVIDE A REPORT THAT INCLUDES THE NAMES, SOCIAL
5 SECURITY NUMBERS, AND A CERTIFICATION THAT THE OFFICER QUALIFIED FOR
6 THE SUBTRACTION MODIFICATION UNDER THIS SECTION.

7 (4) TO QUALIFY FOR THE SUBTRACTION MODIFICATION UNDER THIS
8 SUBSECTION, AN INDIVIDUAL SHALL ATTACH TO THE INDIVIDUAL'S INCOME TAX
9 RETURN A COPY OF THE REPORT PROVIDED BY THE POLICE AGENCY UNDER
10 PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

11 (5) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE POLICE AGENCY
12 SHALL SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL
13 SERVICES AND THE OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER A REPORT LISTING THE NAMES
14 AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO QUALIFIED FOR THE
15 SUBTRACTION MODIFICATION UNDER THIS SUBSECTION FOR THE PRECEDING
16 TAXABLE YEAR.

17 (6) (I) A PERSON MAY NOT KNOWINGLY MAKE OR CAUSE ANY FALSE
18 STATEMENT OR REPORT TO BE MADE IN ANY APPLICATION OR IN ANY DOCUMENT
19 REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

20 (II) ANY PERSON WHO VIOLATES OR ATTEMPTS TO VIOLATE ANY
21 PROVISION OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A
22 FINE OF \$1,000.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 July 1, 1997 and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after December 31,
25 1997.