

HOUSE BILL 681

Q3

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CF 01r3147

By: **Delegates Cardin, Boteler, Bromwell, Frank, Jennings, Kach, Love, Minnick, Morhaim, Olszewski, Sossi, Stein, and Weir**
Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2010
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Maryland Defense Force**

3 FOR the purpose of making certain members of the Maryland Defense Force eligible
4 under certain circumstances for a certain subtraction modification under the
5 Maryland income tax for qualifying volunteer fire, rescue, or emergency medical
6 services members; providing that an individual may not qualify for the
7 subtraction modification based on membership in the Maryland Defense Force
8 unless the Maryland Defense Force maintains certain records and provides
9 certain reports; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating
10 to a State income tax subtraction modification for certain qualifying members of
11 the Maryland Defense Force.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Tax – General
14 Section 10–208(a)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Article – Tax – General
19 Section 10–208(i–1)
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

24 **Article – Tax – General**

25 10–208.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

4 (i–1) (1) The subtraction under subsection (a) of this section includes an
5 amount equal to \$3,500 if an individual is a qualifying volunteer fire, rescue, or
6 emergency medical services member for the taxable year, as determined under
7 paragraph (2) of this subsection.

8 (2) An individual is a qualifying volunteer fire, rescue, or emergency
9 medical services member for the taxable year eligible for the subtraction modification
10 under this subsection if the individual:

11 (i) is an active member of:

12 1. a bona fide Maryland fire, rescue, or emergency
13 medical services organization;

14 2. an auxiliary organization of a bona fide Maryland fire,
15 rescue, or emergency medical services organization; [or]

16 3. the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary; **OR**

17 4. **THE MARYLAND DEFENSE FORCE.**

18 (ii) serves the organization in a volunteer capacity without
19 compensation, except nominal expenses or meals;

20 (iii) 1. qualifies for active status during the taxable year
21 under:

22 A. a volunteer fire, rescue, or emergency medical services
23 personnel or auxiliary length of service award program operated by a county or
24 municipal corporation of the State, if the length of service award program requires for
25 active status qualification a minimum of 50 points per year and that points be earned
26 in at least two different categories; or

27 B. a point system established by a county or municipal
28 corporation that does not operate a volunteer fire, rescue, or emergency medical
29 services personnel or auxiliary length of service award program or by the United
30 States Coast Guard Auxiliary **OR THE MARYLAND DEFENSE FORCE**, to identify
31 active members of a volunteer fire, rescue, or emergency medical services organization
32 or auxiliary organization, if the point system requires for active status qualification a
33 minimum of 50 points per year and that points be earned in at least two different
34 categories;

1 2. has maintained active status for at least 25 years
2 under a volunteer fire, rescue, or emergency medical services personnel or auxiliary
3 length of service award program or a point system established in lieu of a length of
4 service award program;

5 3. is a member of the National Guard or other reserve
6 component of the United States armed forces who has been ordered into active
7 military service and who serves on active duty in the armed forces of the United States
8 during the taxable year; or

9 4. is a civilian or a member of the Merchant Marine on
10 assignment in support of the armed forces of the United States during the taxable year
11 in an area designated as a combat zone by executive order of the President; and

12 (iv) will have been an active member of a bona fide Maryland
13 fire, rescue, or emergency medical services organization, an auxiliary organization of a
14 bona fide Maryland fire, rescue, or emergency medical services organization, or the
15 United States Coast Guard Auxiliary **OR THE MARYLAND DEFENSE FORCE** for at
16 least 36 months during the last 10 calendar years by December 31 of the taxable year.

17 (3) (i) Each fire, rescue, or emergency medical services
18 organization or auxiliary organization shall:

19 1. maintain a record of the points earned by each
20 individual during each calendar year;

21 2. provide each member a report identifying the number
22 of points earned in each category by February 15 of the following year; and

23 3. provide a report that includes the names, Social
24 Security numbers, and points earned by those members qualifying for the subtraction
25 modification under this subsection to the Maryland State Firemen's Association by
26 May 1 of the following year.

27 (ii) An individual may not qualify for the subtraction under this
28 subsection based on membership in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary **OR THE**
29 **MARYLAND DEFENSE FORCE** unless the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary **OR**
30 **THE MARYLAND DEFENSE FORCE**:

31 1. maintains a record of the points earned by each
32 individual during each calendar year;

33 2. provides each member a report identifying the
34 number of points earned in each category by February 15 of the following year; and

35 3. provides a report that includes the names, Social
36 Security numbers, and points earned by those members qualifying for the subtraction

1 modification under this subsection to the Comptroller on or before October 1 of each
2 year.

3 (4) To qualify for the subtraction modification under this subsection,
4 an individual shall attach to the individual's income tax return a copy of the report
5 provided by the organization under paragraph (3) of this subsection.

6 (5) On or before October 1 of each year, the Maryland State Firemen's
7 Association shall submit to the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
8 and the Office of the Comptroller a report stating the participation in the point system
9 by the various local subdivisions with the names and Social Security numbers of
10 individuals who qualified for the subtraction modification under this subsection for the
11 preceding taxable year.

12 (6) (i) A person may not knowingly make or cause any false
13 statement or report to be made in any application or in any document required under
14 this subsection.

15 (ii) Any person who violates or attempts to violate any provision
16 of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph shall be subject to a fine of \$1,000.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 July 1, 2010, and shall be applicable to taxable years beginning after December 31,
19 2010.