

Volunteer Firefighter Deduction

Act 1452 was passed on April 22, 2013 and is good news for the volunteer firefighters in Arkansas.

- Effective for tax years beginning on and after 2014
 - A maximum deduction of \$1,000 is allowed for volunteer firefighters for amounts paid and not reimbursed by the fire department.
 - The deduction amount should be taken on the Itemized Deduction Schedule, Arkansas Form AR3.
 - A volunteer firefighter is defined as a member of a fire department or unit who engages in firefighting activities and is paid less than \$5,000 during the year.
 - The volunteer firefighter may deduct any purchases that were not reimbursed for required equipment and any loss of value of personal property that is damaged or destroyed during firefighting activities.
 - Examples of items that may be claimed as a deduction: purchase of firefighting equipment; damage to clothing; damage or destruction to personal vehicle.
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1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013
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As Engrossed: 5/16/13
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1399

5 By: Representative Farrer
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7 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

8 AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCOME TAX TREATMENT OF
9 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS; TO CREATE THE VOLUNTEER
10 FIREFIGHTER TAX PROTECTION ACT; AND FOR OTHER
11 PURPOSES.
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14 **Subtitle**

15 TO CREATE THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER TAX
16 PROTECTION ACT.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

22 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Volunteer Firefighter
23 Tax Protection Act".
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25 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 26, Chapter 51, Subchapter 4, is
26 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

27 26-51-457. Deduction – Volunteer firefighter.

28 (a) In computing net income for the purposes of the Income Tax Act of
29 1929, § 26-51-101 et seq., there is allowed as a deduction in addition to all
30 other deductions allowed by law for the:

31 (1) Amount paid by a volunteer firefighter and not reimbursed by
32 the fire department or firefighting unit that the volunteer firefighter
33 serves to purchase firefighting equipment required by the fire department or
34 firefighting unit; and

35 (2) Loss of value of personal property of a volunteer
36 firefighter that is damaged or destroyed in the course of his or her



1 participation in fire suppression, rescue, pump operation, or other
2 firefighting activity as a volunteer firefighter.

3 (b) The deduction allowed under subsection (a) of this section shall
4 not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

5 (c) As used in this section, "volunteer firefighter" means a member of
6 a fire department or firefighting unit who:

7 (1) Actively engages in fire suppression, rescue, pump
8 operation, or other firefighting activity; and

9 (2) Receives less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in total
10 compensation during the taxable year from the volunteer fire department or
11 firefighting unit that the volunteer firefighter serves.

12 (d) The Director of the Department of Finance and Administration may
13 promulgate rules to implement this section.

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15 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. Sections 1 and 2 of this act are effective
16 for tax years beginning on and after January 1, 2014.

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18 */s/Farrer*

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21 **APPROVED: 04/22/2013**

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