

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

**2020 REGULAR SESSION**

**ENROLLED**

**Committee Substitute**

**for**

**House Bill 4558**

BY DELEGATES MAYNARD, HOUSEHOLDER, HOWELL,  
GRAVES, ROWAN, HARDY, ESPINOSA, LINVILLE, HILL,

PACK AND CRISS

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from  
passage.]



1 AN ACT to amend and reenact §11-10-14a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to  
2 amend said code by adding thereto a new article, designated §11-13FF-1, §11-13FF-2,  
3 §11-13FF-3, §11-13FF-4 and §11-13FF-5; and to amend said code by adding thereto a  
4 new article, designated §11-13-GG-1, §11-13GG-2, §11-13GG-3, §11-13GG-4, §11-  
5 13GG-5, §11-13GG-6 and §11-13GG-7, all relating generally to taxation; creating various  
6 deductions, exemptions and credits, relating to allowing certain deductions to be made  
7 from individual personal income tax refunds for specified purpose; providing check-off for  
8 nursing home and health care for aged and disabled veterans in the West Virginia  
9 Veterans Home; providing check-off for purposes of operating and maintaining the Donel  
10 C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery; creating the High-Wage Growth Business  
11 Tax Credit Act; defining terms; allowing no more than \$5 million in tax credits from the  
12 Development Office; setting out an application process; providing for factors to be  
13 considered in granting the application; setting out eligibility requirements; creating a  
14 personal income tax credit for volunteer firefighters in West Virginia; providing findings  
15 and purpose; providing definitions; providing nonrefundable tax credit for a volunteer  
16 firefighter against personal income tax in a taxable year; providing for a tax credit limitation  
17 of \$1,000 for a single person; providing for a tax credit limitation of \$2,000 for persons  
18 filing tax returns jointly under certain conditions; providing that the tax credit for volunteer  
19 firefighters must be used in the taxable year and cannot be carried forward; providing for  
20 documentation of eligibility for the tax credit; providing requirements for the documentation  
21 evidencing eligibility for the tax credit; providing that documentation must be sent to the  
22 Tax Commissioner; providing for reporting at certain time; providing for rule-making  
23 authority; and providing an effective date.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 10. WEST VIRGINIA TAX PROCEDURE AND ADMINISTRATION ACT.**

**§11-10-14a. Tax refund check-off programs.**

1 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, or in another section of this code enacted  
2 after June 30, 1991, all voluntary tax refund check-off programs expire and do not apply to any  
3 personal income tax returns required to be filed after June 30, 1991: *Provided*, That if any such  
4 program has an earlier expiration date specifically provided by law, the earlier expiration date  
5 applies.

6 (b) The Tax Commissioner shall cause each West Virginia personal income tax return  
7 form to contain a provision by which a taxpayer, and his or her spouse if a joint return, may donate  
8 a portion or all of his or her tax refund to the West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance for  
9 purposes of providing nursing home and health care for aged and disabled veterans in the West  
10 Virginia Veterans Home. The total amount of donations received under this subsection shall be  
11 deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the Department of Veterans Assistance to be used  
12 exclusively for purposes of providing nursing home and health care for aged and disabled  
13 veterans in the West Virginia Veterans Home.

14 (c) The Tax Commissioner shall cause each West Virginia personal income tax return form  
15 to contain a provision by which a taxpayer, and his or her spouse if a joint return, may donate a  
16 portion or all of his or her tax refund to the Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery  
17 for purposes of operating and maintaining the cemetery. The total amount of donations received  
18 under this subsection shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the Department of  
19 Military Affairs and Public Safety to be used exclusively for purposes of operating and maintaining  
20 the Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery.

**ARTICLE 13FF. THE HIGH-WAGE GROWTH BUSINESS TAX CREDIT ACT.**

**§11-13FF-1. The High-Wage Growth Business Tax Credit Act.**

1 This article shall be known and may be cited as the High-Wage Growth Business Tax  
2 Credit Act.

**§11-13FF-2. Definitions.**

1 As used in this article:

2 “Benefits” means all remuneration for work performed that is provided to an employee in  
3 whole or in part by the employer, other than wages, including the employer’s contributions to  
4 insurance programs, health care, medical, dental and vision plans, life insurance, employer  
5 contributions to pensions, such as a 401(k), and employer-provided services, such as child care,  
6 offered by an employer to the employee. “Benefits” does not include the employer’s share of  
7 payroll taxes, Social Security or Medicare contributions, federal or state unemployment insurance  
8 contributions or workers’ compensation;

9 “Consecutive qualifying period” means each of the three qualifying periods successively  
10 following the qualifying period in which the new high-wage job was created;

11 “Division” means the West Virginia State Tax Division;

12 “Domicile” means the sole place where an individual has a true, fixed, permanent home.  
13 It is the place where the individual has a voluntary, fixed habitation of self and family with the  
14 intention of making a permanent home;

15 “Eligible employee” means an individual who is employed in West Virginia by an eligible  
16 employer, who is a resident of West Virginia, and 100 percent of the employee’s income from  
17 such employment is West Virginia income. “Eligible employee” does not include an individual who:

18 (1) Bears any of the relationships described in paragraphs (1) through (8) of 26 U.S.C.  
19 Section 152(a) to the employer or, if the employer is a corporation, to an individual who owns,  
20 directly or indirectly, more than 50 percent in value of the outstanding stock of the corporation or,  
21 if the employer is an entity other than a corporation, to an individual who owns, directly or  
22 indirectly, more than 50 percent of the capital and profits interest in the entity;

23 (2) If the employer is an estate or trust, is a grantor, beneficiary, or fiduciary of the estate  
24 or trust or is an individual who bears any of the relationships described in paragraphs (1) through  
25 (8) of 26 U.S.C. Section 152(a) to a grantor, beneficiary, or fiduciary of the estate or trust;

26 (3) Is a dependent, as that term is described in 26 U.S.C. Section 152(a)(9), of the  
27 employer or, if the taxpayer is a corporation, of an individual who owns, directly or indirectly, more  
28 than 50 percent in value of the outstanding stock of the corporation or, if the employer is an entity  
29 other than a corporation, of an individual who owns, directly or indirectly, more than 50 percent of  
30 the capital and profits interest in the entity or, if the employer is an estate or trust, of a grantor,  
31 beneficiary, or fiduciary of the estate or trust; or

32 (4) Is working or has worked as an employee or as an independent contractor for an entity  
33 that, directly or indirectly, owns stock in a corporation of the eligible employer or other interest of  
34 the eligible employer that represents 50 percent or more of the total voting power of that entity or  
35 has a value equal to 50 percent or more of the capital and profits interest in the entity;

36 “Eligible employer” means a person whether organized for profit or not, or headquarters  
37 of such entity registered to do business in West Virginia that is the owner or operator of a project  
38 facility, that offers health benefits to all full-time eligible employees and certifies that it pays at  
39 least 50 percent of such health benefit premiums.

40 “Health benefits” means coverage for basic hospital care, physician care, prescriptions,  
41 and shall be the same coverage as is provided to employees employed in a bona fide executive,  
42 administrative, or professional capacity by the employer who are exempt from the minimum wage  
43 and maximum hour requirements of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act and the employer pays  
44 at least 50 percent of such insurance premiums.

45 “New high-wage job” means a new job created in West Virginia by an eligible employer on  
46 or after July 1, 2020, that is occupied for at least 48 weeks of a qualifying period by an eligible  
47 employee who is paid wages calculated for the qualifying period to be at least two and twenty-  
48 five hundredths times the state median salary;

49 “New job” means a job that is occupied by an employee who was not previously on the  
50 employer’s payroll in West Virginia, nor previously on the payroll of such employer’s parent entity,  
51 subsidiary, alter ego, or affiliate in West Virginia, or previously on the payroll of any business

52 whose physical plant and employees are substantially the same as those of the employer in West  
53 Virginia in the three years prior to the date of hire. “New job” does not mean any job that is a result  
54 of job shifts due to the gain or loss of an in-state contract to supply goods and services, nor does  
55 it mean an employee who is retained following the acquisition of all or part of an in-state business  
56 by an employer;

57 “Qualifying period” means the period of 12 months beginning on the day an eligible  
58 employee begins working in a new high-wage job or the period of 12 months beginning on the  
59 anniversary of the day an eligible employee began working in a new high-wage job;

60 “Resident” means a natural person whose domicile is in West Virginia at the time of hire  
61 or within 180 days of the date of hire;

62 “Threshold job” means a job that is occupied for at least 44 weeks of a calendar year by  
63 an eligible employee and that meets the wage requirements for a “new high-wage job”; and

64 “Wages” means all compensation paid by an eligible employer to an eligible employee  
65 through the employer’s payroll system, including those wages that the employee elects to defer  
66 or redirect or the employee’s contribution to a 401(k) or cafeteria plan program, but “wages” does  
67 not include benefits or the employer’s share of payroll taxes, Social Security or Medicare  
68 contributions, federal or state unemployment insurance contributions, or workers’ compensation.

**§11-13FF-3. High-wage growth business tax credit.**

1 (a) The Development Office may authorize no more than \$5 million of the tax credits  
2 allowed under this article during any fiscal year and the total amount of tax credit that may be  
3 awarded or used in any taxable year by any qualified taxpayer in combination with the owners of  
4 the qualified taxpayer may not exceed more than 10 percent of the salaries for the new direct  
5 jobs. Depending on the nature of the anticipated benefits to the state, the Development Office  
6 may establish a tax credit at a level less than the maximum. Nothing in this article entitles a  
7 qualified employer to receive a tax credit under this article and the Development Office has full

8 discretion, subject to annual or ad hoc review, in determining whether and the amount to which  
9 to award a tax credit.

10 (b) A taxpayer that is an eligible employer seeking to obtain a tax credit shall make an  
11 application to the Development Office prior to the taxable year in which the eligible employer is  
12 seeking the credit. The application shall be on a form prescribed by the Development Office and  
13 shall contain such information as may be required by the Development Office to determine if the  
14 applicant is qualified. The application shall contain a sworn statement by a duly authorized officer  
15 of the employer listing the names of persons or other entities who have received or who will  
16 receive any payment or other consideration from the employer for the purpose of representing  
17 the employer in applying for or receiving the benefits provided for in this article and shall include  
18 a certificate of good standing from the State Tax Department.

19 (c) The employer shall certify that during the eligible employer's tax year and that at the  
20 end of the eligible employer's tax year it will meet or exceed all of the requirements established  
21 in §11-13FF-4 of this code;

22 (d) After the filing of an application by an eligible employer, the Development Office shall  
23 undertake an analysis and determine whether, the extent to which, and the conditions upon which  
24 an eligible employer may obtain a tax credit if it fulfills the commitments made in the eligible  
25 employer's application. In considering whether to approve the eligible employer's application for  
26 a tax credit, the Development Office shall consider the following factors:

27 (1) The significance of the eligible employer's need for the tax credit;

28 (2) The amount of projected net fiscal benefit to the state of the project and the period in  
29 which the state would realize such net fiscal benefit;

30 (3) The overall size and quality of the proposed project, including the number of new jobs,  
31 proposed wages, growth potential of the qualified company, the potential multiplier effect of the  
32 project, and similar factors;

33 (4) The financial stability and creditworthiness of the eligible employer;



34 (5) The level of economic distress in the area;

35 (6) An evaluation of the competitiveness of alternative locations for the location of the  
36 eligible employer, as applicable;

37 (7) Whether other state incentives are available and have been awarded to the eligible  
38 employer; and

39 (8) The amount of local incentives committed.

40 (e) The Development Office may authorize the continued ability to receive the tax credit  
41 as long as the employer retains its eligibility by maintaining the number of new direct jobs in  
42 successive years, as provided under this article, not to exceed five years.

43 (f) A qualified employer that has qualified pursuant to this article is eligible to receive tax  
44 credits under this article only in accordance with the provisions under which it initially applied and  
45 was approved. If a qualified employer that is receiving tax credits and creates new direct jobs, it  
46 may apply for additional tax credits based on the new direct jobs anticipated from the expansion  
47 only, pursuant to this article.

**§11-13FF-4. Obtaining tax credit following tax year.**

1 (a) At the end of the approved employer's tax year, the qualified employer may file an  
2 application to use the tax credits previously approved by the Development Office. The application  
3 shall contain a sworn statement by a duly authorized officer of the qualified employer concerning  
4 with respect to the employer's fiscal year:

5 (1) That the eligible employer remained a qualified employer under the provisions of this  
6 article;

7 (2) The total number of and the gross payroll of the new direct jobs, with salary information  
8 provided by new direct job and that each new direct job was filled for at least 48 weeks during the  
9 tax year;

10 (3) That the employer had or maintained a net overall increase in employment statewide  
11 for each new direct job and the number of such net overall increase of at least 10 new direct jobs,  
12 in the case where an employer has contracts covering multiple locations;

- 13 (4) That employees holding the new direct jobs:
- 14 (A) Were residents in the State of West Virginia;
- 15 (B) Were not previously on the employer's payroll;
- 16 (C) Were not previously on the payroll of the employer's parent entity, subsidiary, or
- 17 affiliate, alter ego, or previously on the payroll of the business whose physical plant and
- 18 employees were substantially the same as those of the employer;
- 19 (D) Did not exist as of the date the employer filed the application for the tax credit;
- 20 (E) Were not jobs created as a result of job shifts due to the gain or loss of an in-state
- 21 contract to supply goods and services;
- 22 (F) Were not jobs retained following the acquisition of all, or part of, an in-state business
- 23 by the employer;
- 24 (5) That the employer has offered the health benefits to the eligible employees it employs
- 25 in new direct jobs; and
- 26 (6) That the employer:
- 27 (A) Did not default on or otherwise not repay any loan or other obligation involving public
- 28 funds;
- 29 (B) Has not declared bankruptcy under which an obligation of the employer to pay or repay
- 30 public funds or moneys was discharged as part of such bankruptcy;
- 31 (C) Is not in default on any filing or payment with or to the state or any of its agencies or
- 32 political subdivisions in which such assessment or judgment is final, not appealable, and remains
- 33 outstanding.
- 34 (b) The division may request such additional information from the employer as may be
- 35 necessary to determine whether the application is correct and whether the qualified employer is
- 36 eligible for the annual tax credit for that year, or may request that the qualified employer revise its
- 37 application.

38           (c) The tax credits authorized in this article shall be authorized after the qualified employer  
39 has filed its application for annual tax credit at the end of the qualified employer's tax year with  
40 the Development Office pursuant to this section, and the division has determined from the  
41 information submitted along with such application that the employer has fulfilled its obligations in  
42 original application.

43           (d) Upon approval of the application for use of the tax credit, the application shall be  
44 forwarded to the Department of Revenue. The eligible employer may then use such tax credit in  
45 filing its tax return.

46           (e) A new high-wage job is not eligible for a credit pursuant to this section for the initial  
47 qualifying period unless the eligible employer's total number of employees with threshold jobs on  
48 the last day of the initial qualifying period at the location at which the job is performed or based is  
49 at least one more than the number of threshold jobs on the day prior to the date the new high-  
50 wage job was created. A new high-wage job is not eligible for a credit pursuant to this section for  
51 a consecutive qualifying period unless the total number of threshold jobs at a location at which  
52 the job is performed or based on the last day of that qualifying period is greater than or equal to  
53 the number of threshold jobs at that same location on the last day of the initial qualifying period  
54 for the new high-wage job.

55           (f) If a consecutive qualifying period for a new high-wage job does not meet the wage,  
56 occupancy and residency requirements, then the qualifying period is ineligible.

57           (g) Except as provided in subsection (h) of this section, a new high-wage job is not eligible  
58 for a credit pursuant to this section if:

59           (1) The new high-wage job is created due to a business merger or acquisition or other  
60 change in business organization;

61           (2) The eligible employee was terminated from employment in West Virginia by another  
62 employer involved in the business merger or acquisition or other change in business organization  
63 with the taxpayer; and

64 (3) The new high-wage job is performed by:

65 (A) The person who performed the job or its functional equivalent prior to the business  
66 merger or acquisition or other change in business organization; or

67 (B) A person replacing the person who performed the job or its functional equivalent prior  
68 to a business merger or acquisition or other change in business organization.

69 (h) A new high-wage job that was created by another employer and for which an  
70 application for the high-wage growth business tax credit was received and is under review by the  
71 division prior to the time of the business merger or acquisition or other change in business  
72 organization shall remain eligible for the high-wage growth business tax credit for the balance of  
73 the consecutive qualifying periods. The new employer that results from a business merger or  
74 acquisition or other change in business organization may only claim the high-wage growth  
75 business tax credit for the balance of the consecutive qualifying periods for which the new high-  
76 wage job is otherwise eligible.

77 (i) A new high-wage job is not eligible for a credit pursuant to this section if the job is  
78 created due to an eligible employer entering into a contract or becoming a subcontractor to a  
79 contract with a governmental entity that replaces one or more entities performing functionally  
80 equivalent services for the governmental entity unless the job is a new high-wage job that was  
81 not being performed by an employee of the replaced entity.

82 (j) A new high-wage job is not eligible for a credit pursuant to this section if the eligible  
83 employer has more than one business location in the state from which it conducts business and  
84 the requirements of subsection (e) of this section are satisfied solely by moving the job from one  
85 business location of the eligible employer in this state to another business location of the eligible  
86 employer in the state.

87 (k) With respect to each annual application for a high-wage growth business tax credit, the  
88 employer shall certify and include:

89 (1) The responsibilities and amount of wages paid to each eligible employee in a new high-  
90 wage job during the qualifying period;

91 (2) The number of weeks each position was occupied during the qualifying period;

92 (3) Which qualifying period the application pertains to for each eligible employee;

93 (4) The total number of employees employed by the employer at the job location on the  
94 day prior to the qualifying period and on the last day of the qualifying period;

95 (5) The total number of threshold jobs performed or based at the eligible employer's  
96 location on the day prior to the qualifying period and on the last day of the qualifying period;

97 (6) For an eligible employer that has more than one business location in the state from  
98 which it conducts business, the total number of threshold jobs performed or based at each  
99 business location of the eligible employer in the state on the day prior to the qualifying period and  
100 on the last day of the qualifying period;

101 (7) Whether the eligible employer has ceased business operations at any of its business  
102 locations in this state; and

103 (8) Whether the application is precluded by subsection (o) of this section.

104 (l) Any person who willfully submits a false, incorrect, or fraudulent certification required  
105 pursuant this section shall be subject to all applicable penalties under §11-9-1 *et seq.* and §11-  
106 10-1 *et seq.* of this code, except that the amount on which the penalty is based shall be the total  
107 amount of credit requested on the application for approval.

108 (m) Except as provided in subsection (o) of this section, an approved high-wage growth  
109 business tax credit shall be claimed against the taxpayer's taxes imposed by §11-23-1 *et seq.*,  
110 §11-24-1 *et seq.*, and §11-21-1 *et seq.* of this code, in that order, as specified in this subsection:

111 (1) *Business franchise tax.* — The credit is first applied to reduce the taxes imposed by  
112 §11-23-1 *et seq.* of this code for the taxable year, determined after application of the credits  
113 against tax provided in §11-23-17 of this code, but before application of any other allowable credits  
114 against tax.

115           (2) *Corporation net income taxes.* — After application of subdivision (1) of this subsection,  
116 any unused credit is next applied to reduce the taxes imposed by §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code  
117 for the taxable year, determined before application of allowable credits against tax.

118           (A) If the eligible taxpayer is a limited liability company, small business corporation, or a  
119 partnership, then any unused credit after application of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection  
120 is allowed as a credit against the taxes imposed by §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code on owners of  
121 the eligible taxpayer on the conduit income directly derived from the eligible taxpayer by its  
122 owners. Only those portions of the tax imposed by §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code that are imposed  
123 on income directly derived by the owner from the eligible taxpayer are subject to offset by this  
124 credit.

125           (B) Small business corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships, and other  
126 unincorporated organizations shall allocate the credit allowed by this section among their  
127 members in the same manner as profits and losses are allocated for the taxable year.

128           (3) *Personal income tax taxes.* — After application of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this  
129 subsection, any unused credit is next applied to reduce the taxes imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* of  
130 this code for the taxable year determined before application of allowable credits against tax of the  
131 eligible taxpayer.

132           (4) If the eligible taxpayer is a limited liability company, small business corporation, or a  
133 partnership, then any unused credit after application of subdivisions (1), (2), and (3) of this  
134 subsection is allowed as a credit against the taxes imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* of this code on  
135 owners of the eligible taxpayer on the conduit income directly derived from the eligible taxpayer  
136 by its owners. Only those portions of the tax imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* of this code that are  
137 imposed on income directly derived by the owner from the eligible taxpayer are subject to offset  
138 by this credit.

139 (5) Small business corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships, and other  
140 unincorporated organizations shall allocate the credit allowed by this section among their  
141 members in the same manner as profits and losses are allocated for the taxable year.

142 (6) No credit is allowed under this section against any withholding tax imposed by, or  
143 payable under, §11-21-1 *et seq.* of this code.

144 (7) *Unused credit carry forward.* — Except to the extent excess credit is refunded as  
145 provided in subdivision (8) of this subsection, if the credit allowed under this article in any taxable  
146 year exceeds the sum of the taxes enumerated in subdivisions (1), (2), and (3) of this subsection  
147 for that taxable year, the eligible taxpayer and owners of eligible taxpayers described in  
148 subdivisions (4) and (5) of this subsection may apply the excess as a credit against those taxes,  
149 in the order and manner stated in this section, for succeeding taxable years until the earlier of the  
150 following:

151 (A) The full amount of the excess credit is used; or

152 (B) The expiration of the 10th taxable year after the taxable year in which the annual  
153 salaries for the new direct job was paid or incurred. Any credit remaining thereafter is forfeited.

154 (8) If the credit allowed under this section in any taxable year exceeds the sum of taxes  
155 enumerated in subdivisions (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) of this subsection for that taxable year, the  
156 eligible taxpayer and owners of the eligible taxpayers described in subdivisions (4) and (5) of this  
157 subsection may claim for that year the excess amount as a refundable credit, not to exceed  
158 \$100,000 per taxpayer, including owners and the controlled group, if applicable.

159 (9) Tax credits provided under this section may not be transferred, sold, or assigned by  
160 filing a notarized endorsement thereof with the division that names the transferee, the amount of  
161 tax credit transferred, and the value received for the credit, as well as any other information  
162 reasonably requested by the division.

163 (n) If the taxpayer ceases business operations in this state while an application for credit  
164 approval is pending or after an application for credit has been approved for any qualifying period

165 for a new high-wage job, the division may not grant an additional high-wage growth business tax  
166 credit to that taxpayer except as provided in subsection (m) of this section and shall extinguish  
167 any amount of credit approved for that taxpayer that has not already been claimed against the  
168 taxpayer's modified combined tax liability.

169 (o) A taxpayer that has received a high-wage growth business tax credit may not submit  
170 a new application for the credit for a minimum of two calendar years from the closing date of the  
171 last qualifying period for which the taxpayer received the credit if the taxpayer lost eligibility to  
172 claim the credit from a previous application pursuant to subsection (m) of this section.

**§11-13FF-5. Rules.**

1 The division shall propose legislative rules implementing this article in accordance with  
2 the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

**ARTICLE 13GG. WEST VIRGINIA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER TAX CREDIT ACT.**

**§11-13GG-1. Findings and Purpose.**

1 The Legislature finds that it is an important public policy to encourage participation in  
2 volunteer fire fighting and emergency response by providing tax credits for those who volunteer  
3 their time as a vital service to their community.

**§11-13GG-2. Definitions.**

1 As used in this article:

2 "Active member" means an individual that performs the function of fire prevention and  
3 suppression, or vehicle and machinery extrications, hazardous materials response and mitigation,  
4 technical rescue, emergency medical services, and any other duties that a specialized support  
5 member may provide when responding to emergency situations;

6 "Activities" means responses to emergencies, monthly or quarterly meetings, fund raising  
7 activities, and fire department management;

8 "Chief" means the highest-ranking fire line officer in charge of a volunteer fire department;

9 "Commission" means the West Virginia State Fire Commission;



10 "Volunteer fire department" means a volunteer fire department in this state, certified and  
11 regulated by the commission, and lawfully formed under §8-15-1 *et seq.* of this code;

12 "Volunteer firefighter" means a West Virginia taxpayer who is an active member of a  
13 volunteer fire department.

**§11-13GG-3. Amount of credit; limitation of credit.**

1 (a) There is allowed to eligible volunteer firefighters in this state a nonrefundable credit  
2 against taxes imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* of this code in the amount set forth in subsection (b)  
3 of this section.

4 (b) The amount of the credit is \$1,000 during a taxable year or the total amount of tax  
5 imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* of this code in the year of active membership, whichever is less. If  
6 both taxpayers filing a joint tax return are eligible for the credit authorized by this article, the  
7 amount of the credit is \$2,000, or \$1,000 for each eligible taxpayer, during a taxable year or the  
8 total amount of tax imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* of this code in the year of active membership,  
9 whichever is less.

10 (c) If the amount of the credit authorized by this article is unused in any tax year, it may  
11 not be applied to any other tax year.

**§11-13GG-4. Qualification for credit.**

1 (a) To be an eligible volunteer firefighter under §11-13GG-3 of this code, he or she shall  
2 obtain certification from the chief of the volunteer fire department to demonstrate the following:

3 (1) The volunteer firefighter has been an active member in good standing of the volunteer  
4 fire department for the entire year; or

5 (2) Has been an active member in good standing of the volunteer fire department and  
6 another volunteer fire department of this state for the entire year; and

7 (3) Has participated as an active member as defined in §11-13GG-3 of this code on-site  
8 at least 30 percent of the volunteer fire department activities during the year; and

9 (4) Has met or exceeded all certification and training for active member firefighters  
10 required under the laws of this state.

11 (b) The certification from the chief of the volunteer firefighter department shall  
12 demonstrate, at a minimum:

13 (1) The rank or position of the volunteer firefighter;

14 (2) The years of service for the volunteer firefighter;

15 (3) The number of emergency situations the volunteer firefighter responded in the year of  
16 active membership; and

17 (4) The number of meetings or training attended by the volunteer firefighter in the year of  
18 active membership.

19 (c) To claim the tax credit, a volunteer firefighter shall submit the certification from the chief  
20 of the volunteer fire department to the Tax Commissioner.

**§11-13GG-5. Legislative rules.**

1 (a) The Tax Commissioner may propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with  
2 the provision of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of  
3 this article.

4 (b) The commission may propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the  
5 provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this  
6 article.

**§11-13GG-6. Tax credit review report.**

1 Beginning on the first day of the second taxable year after the passage of this article and  
2 every two years thereafter, the commission shall submit to the Governor, the President of the  
3 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Delegates a tax credit review and accountability report  
4 evaluating the cost effectiveness of the tax credit and donations during the most recent two-year  
5 period for which information is available.

**§11-13GG-7. Effective date.**

1 The credit allowed by this article shall be allowed for qualifying volunteer firefighters after  
2 December 31, 2022.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

.....  
*Chairman, House Committee*

.....  
*Chairman, Senate Committee*

Originating in the House.

In effect ninety days from passage.

.....  
*Clerk of the House of Delegates*

.....  
*Clerk of the Senate*

.....  
*Speaker of the House of Delegates*

.....  
*President of the Senate*

\_\_\_\_\_

The within ..... this the.....  
day of ....., 2020.

.....  
*Governor*