

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1683 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY WARNER, BARRAR, SAINATO, GREINER, BAKER, ROZZI, DUNBAR, REESE, CAUSER, DIAMOND, D. COSTA, MALONEY, MAHONEY, WATSON, READSHAW, JAMES, A. HARRIS, KAUFFMAN, PHILLIPS-HILL, SAYLOR, MILNE, FARRY, GILLEN, KORTZ, VEREB, BRADFORD, HEFFLEY, CUTLER, B. MILLER, MACKENZIE, MICCARELLI AND DAVIS, NOVEMBER 5, 2015

SENATOR BROWNE, APPROPRIATIONS, IN SENATE, RE-REPORTED AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 19, 2016

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for incentives for <--
3 volunteers of fire companies and emergency medical services <--
4 agencies. PROVIDING FOR INCENTIVES FOR MUNICIPAL VOLUNTEERS <--
5 OF FIRE COMPANIES AND NONPROFIT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
6 AGENCIES.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated <--
10 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

CHAPTER 79 A

INCENTIVES FOR VOLUNTEERS OF FIRE COMPANIES

AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCIES

Subchapter

A. Preliminary Provisions

B. Tax Credits

C. Volunteer Service Credit

1 ~~D. Miscellaneous Provisions~~

2 ~~SUBCHAPTER A~~

3 ~~PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS~~

4 ~~Sec.~~

5 ~~7901 A. Scope of chapter.~~

6 ~~7902 A. Purpose.~~

7 ~~7903 A. Definitions.~~

8 ~~§ 7901 A. Scope of chapter.~~

9 ~~This chapter relates to incentives for municipal volunteers~~  
10 ~~of fire companies and emergency medical services agencies.~~

11 ~~§ 7902 A. Purpose.~~

12 ~~The purpose of this chapter is to authorize governing bodies~~  
13 ~~to enact a tax credit against an active volunteer's earned~~  
14 ~~income and property tax liability as a financial incentive to:~~

15 ~~(1) Indicate the governing body's acknowledgment of the~~  
16 ~~value of and the absence of any public cost for volunteer~~  
17 ~~fire protection and emergency medical services provided by~~  
18 ~~active volunteers.~~

19 ~~(2) Encourage other individuals to newly volunteer or~~  
20 ~~for former volunteers to consider rejoining as active~~  
21 ~~volunteers in a volunteer fire company or emergency medical~~  
22 ~~services agency.~~

23 ~~§ 7903 A. Definitions.~~

24 ~~The following words and phrases when used in this chapter~~  
25 ~~shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the~~  
26 ~~context clearly indicates otherwise:~~

27 ~~"Active volunteer." A volunteer for a volunteer fire company~~  
28 ~~or emergency medical services agency who has complied with the~~  
29 ~~requirements of the volunteer service credit program and who is~~  
30 ~~certified under section 7923 A (relating to certification).~~

1 ~~"Commissioner." The State Fire Commissioner of the~~  
2 ~~Commonwealth.~~

3 ~~"County." A county of the Commonwealth.~~

4 ~~"Earned income tax." A tax on earned income and net profits~~  
5 ~~levied under Chapter 3 of the act of December 31, 1965~~  
6 ~~(P.L.1257, No.511), known as The Local Tax Enabling Act.~~

7 ~~"Emergency medical services agency." Any for profit or~~  
8 ~~nonprofit corporation, association or organization located in~~  
9 ~~this Commonwealth, which is licensed by the Department of Health~~  
10 ~~and is not associated or affiliated with any hospital and which~~  
11 ~~is regularly engaged in the provision of emergency medical~~  
12 ~~services, including basic life support or advanced life support~~  
13 ~~services and advanced life support squad vehicles as defined in~~  
14 ~~28 Pa. Code § 1021.2 (relating to definitions). The term shall~~  
15 ~~not include any corporation, association or organization that is~~  
16 ~~primarily engaged in the operation of invalid coaches which are~~  
17 ~~intended for the routine transport of persons who are~~  
18 ~~convalescent or otherwise nonambulatory and do not ordinarily~~  
19 ~~require emergency medical treatment while in transit.~~

20 ~~"Governing body." A county council, county board of~~  
21 ~~commissioners, city council, borough council, incorporated town~~  
22 ~~council, board of township commissioners, board of township~~  
23 ~~supervisors, governing council of a home rule municipality or~~  
24 ~~optional plan municipality, a school district board of directors~~  
25 ~~or a governing council of any similar purpose government which~~  
26 ~~may be created by statute after the effective date of this~~  
27 ~~section and which has adopted a tax credit under this chapter.~~

28 ~~"Local Tax Enabling Act." The act of December 31, 1965~~  
29 ~~(P.L.1257, No.511), known as The Local Tax Enabling Act.~~

30 ~~"Municipality." A city, borough, incorporated town or~~

1 ~~township located in this Commonwealth.~~

2 ~~"School district." A school district of the Commonwealth.~~

3 ~~"Tax credit." The tax credit granted under section 7911 A~~  
4 ~~(relating to program authorization) or 7912.1 A (relating to~~  
5 ~~real property tax credit).~~

6 ~~"Volunteer." A member of a volunteer fire company or an~~  
7 ~~emergency medical services agency.~~

8 ~~"Volunteer fire company." A nonprofit chartered corporation,~~  
9 ~~association or organization located in this Commonwealth that~~  
10 ~~provides fire protection services and may offer other voluntary~~  
11 ~~emergency services within this Commonwealth.~~

12 ~~"Volunteer service credit program." The program established~~  
13 ~~under section 7921 A (relating to volunteer service credit~~  
14 ~~program) to determine the active status of a volunteer.~~

15 ~~SUBCHAPTER B~~

16 ~~TAX CREDITS~~

17 ~~Sec.~~

18 ~~7911 A. Program authorization.~~

19 ~~7912 A. Claim.~~

20 ~~7912.1 A. Real property tax credit.~~

21 ~~7913 A. Limitations.~~

22 ~~§ 7911 A. Program authorization.~~

23 ~~(a) Establishment. A municipality by ordinance or school~~  
24 ~~district by resolution that levies an earned income tax may~~  
25 ~~establish by ordinance or resolution a tax credit against an~~  
26 ~~individual's liability imposed under Chapter 3 of the act of~~  
27 ~~December 31, 1965 (P.L.1257, No.511), known as The Local Tax~~  
28 ~~Enabling Act, for active service as a volunteer.~~

29 ~~(b) Amount. A governing body shall set forth in the~~  
30 ~~ordinance or resolution the amount of the tax credit. If the~~

1 ~~total earned income tax liability is less than the amount~~  
2 ~~established, the tax credit shall equal the remaining tax~~  
3 ~~liability.~~

4 ~~(c) Public notice. At least 30 days prior to adoption of~~  
5 ~~the ordinance or resolution, the governing body shall give~~  
6 ~~public notice of its intent to adopt an ordinance or resolution~~  
7 ~~to establish a tax credit and conduct at least one public~~  
8 ~~hearing on the issue.~~

9 ~~(d) Specific notice. A governing body that establishes a~~  
10 ~~tax credit under this chapter shall notify the commissioner in~~  
11 ~~the manner prescribed by the commissioner.~~

12 ~~§ 7912 A. Claim.~~

13 ~~(a) Eligibility. An individual who satisfies all of the~~  
14 ~~following criteria may claim a tax credit established under~~  
15 ~~section 7911 A (relating to program authorization):~~

16 ~~(1) The individual is subject to an earned income tax of~~  
17 ~~a municipality or school district that has established a tax~~  
18 ~~credit under section 7911 A.~~

19 ~~(2) The individual is certified under section 7923 A~~  
20 ~~(relating to certification).~~

21 ~~(b) Return. An active volunteer may claim a tax credit~~  
22 ~~provided for under this subchapter when filing a joint return.~~  
23 ~~The tax return form shall provide a mechanism for separating the~~  
24 ~~liability of an individual for any earned income tax imposed by~~  
25 ~~the school district of residence from the liability of an~~  
26 ~~individual for any earned income tax imposed by the~~  
27 ~~municipality.~~

28 ~~§ 7912.1 A. Real property tax credit.~~

29 ~~(a) School district. The governing body of a school~~  
30 ~~district may provide, by resolution, for a tax credit against~~

~~1 real property tax to be granted to an active volunteer. The tax  
2 credit shall apply to tax levied on residential real property  
3 owned and occupied by an active volunteer who is certified under  
4 section 7923 A (relating to certification). The amount of the  
5 tax credit authorized by a resolution shall not exceed 20% of  
6 the tax liability of the active volunteer.~~

~~7 (b) County. The governing body of a county may provide, by  
8 resolution, for a tax credit against real property taxes to be  
9 granted to active volunteer firefighters. The tax credit shall  
10 apply to taxes levied on residential real property owned and  
11 occupied by an active volunteer firefighter who is certified  
12 under section 7923 A. The amount of the tax credit authorized by  
13 resolution shall not exceed 20% of the tax liability of the  
14 active volunteer firefighter.~~

~~15 § 7913 A. Limitations.~~

~~16 A tax credit established under this subchapter may be used  
17 against the active volunteer's earned income tax or property tax  
18 liability for the current taxable year and each year thereafter.  
19 The tax credit established under this subchapter shall remain in  
20 effect until the governing body repeals the tax credit.~~

~~21 SUBCHAPTER C~~

~~22 VOLUNTEER SERVICE CREDIT~~

~~23 Sec.~~

~~24 7921 A. Volunteer service credit program.~~

~~25 7922 A. Service record.~~

~~26 7923 A. Certification.~~

~~27 7924 A. Rejection and appeal.~~

~~28 § 7921 A. Volunteer service credit program.~~

~~29 (a) Establishment. Within 90 days of the effective date of  
30 this section, the commissioner shall establish through~~

1 ~~regulation a volunteer service credit program that establishes~~  
2 ~~the annual requirements for the certification of a volunteer in~~  
3 ~~active service at a volunteer fire company or an emergency~~  
4 ~~medical services agency.~~

5 ~~(b) Activities. The volunteer service credit program shall~~  
6 ~~consider the following activities in determining credit toward a~~  
7 ~~certification of active service:~~

8 ~~(1) The number of emergency calls to which a volunteer~~  
9 ~~responds.~~

10 ~~(2) The level of training and participation in formal~~  
11 ~~training and drills for a volunteer.~~

12 ~~(3) The total amount of time expended by a volunteer on~~  
13 ~~administrative and other support services, including~~  
14 ~~fundraising and facility or equipment maintenance.~~

15 ~~(4) The involvement in other events or projects that aid~~  
16 ~~the financial viability, emergency response or operational~~  
17 ~~readiness of a volunteer fire company or an emergency medical~~  
18 ~~services agency.~~

19 ~~(c) Guidelines. The commissioner shall adopt guidelines,~~  
20 ~~including forms and applications, necessary to implement this~~  
21 ~~section.~~

22 ~~§ 7922 A. Service record.~~

23 ~~(a) Log. The chief of a volunteer fire company or the~~  
24 ~~supervisor or chief of an emergency medical services agency or~~  
25 ~~their designees shall establish and maintain a service log that~~  
26 ~~documents the activities of each volunteer that qualifies for~~  
27 ~~credit toward active service under the volunteer service credit~~  
28 ~~program and the calculation of the total credits earned for each~~  
29 ~~volunteer in the volunteer fire company or emergency medical~~  
30 ~~services agency.~~

1 ~~(b) Review. Service logs established and maintained by~~  
2 ~~volunteer fire companies or emergency medical services agencies~~  
3 ~~shall be subject to periodic review by the commissioner, the~~  
4 ~~Auditor General, the governing body where the volunteer fire~~  
5 ~~company or emergency medical services agency is located, the~~  
6 ~~governing body of the municipality, school district and county~~  
7 ~~that has adopted a tax credit for volunteers of a volunteer fire~~  
8 ~~company or emergency medical services agency and the governing~~  
9 ~~body where the volunteer fire company or emergency medical~~  
10 ~~services agency provides services.~~

11 ~~§ 7923 A. Certification.~~

12 ~~(a) Self certification. The active volunteer shall sign and~~  
13 ~~submit an application to the chief of the volunteer fire company~~  
14 ~~or the supervisor or chief of the emergency medical services~~  
15 ~~agency where the volunteer serves.~~

16 ~~(b) Local sign off. The chief and another officer of the~~  
17 ~~volunteer fire company or the supervisor or chief and another~~  
18 ~~officer of the emergency medical services agency shall sign the~~  
19 ~~application attesting to the individual's status as an active~~  
20 ~~volunteer. The application shall then be forwarded to the~~  
21 ~~governing body, as appropriate, for final review and processing.~~

22 ~~§ 7924 A. Rejection and appeal.~~

23 ~~(a) General rule. A governing body that establishes a tax~~  
24 ~~credit under this chapter shall adopt, by ordinance or~~  
25 ~~resolution, a process for rejecting a claim by an active~~  
26 ~~volunteer who does not satisfy all of the criteria established~~  
27 ~~under this chapter for each type of tax credit provided under~~  
28 ~~this chapter.~~

29 ~~(b) Appeal. An active volunteer shall have the right to~~  
30 ~~appeal a claim that has been rejected by a governing body. The~~



1 ~~governing body shall establish, by ordinance or resolution, the~~  
2 ~~procedure by which a rejected claim can be appealed.~~

3 ~~SUBCHAPTER D~~

4 ~~MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS~~

5 ~~Sec.~~

6 ~~7931 A. Penalties for false reporting.~~

7 ~~§ 7931 A. Penalties for false reporting.~~

8 ~~The following shall apply:~~

9 ~~(1) Any person who knowingly makes or conspires to make~~  
10 ~~a false service record report under this chapter to the~~  
11 ~~commissioner commits a misdemeanor of the first degree~~  
12 ~~punishable by a fine of \$2,500.~~

13 ~~(2) Any person who knowingly provides or conspires to~~  
14 ~~provide false information that is used to compile a service~~  
15 ~~record report under this chapter commits a misdemeanor of the~~  
16 ~~first degree punishable by a fine of \$2,500.~~

17 ~~Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.~~

18 SECTION 1. TITLE 35 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CONSOLIDATED  
19 STATUTES IS AMENDED BY ADDING A CHAPTER TO READ:

20 CHAPTER 79A

21 INCENTIVES FOR MUNICIPAL VOLUNTEERS OF FIRE COMPANIES AND  
22 NONPROFIT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCIES

23 SUBCHAPTER

24 A. PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

25 B. TAX CREDITS

26 C. VOLUNTEER SERVICE CREDIT

27 D. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

28 SUBCHAPTER A

29 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

30 SEC.

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1 79A01. SCOPE OF CHAPTER.

2 79A02. PURPOSE.

3 79A03. DEFINITIONS.

4 § 79A01. SCOPE OF CHAPTER.

5 THIS CHAPTER RELATES TO INCENTIVES FOR MUNICIPAL VOLUNTEERS  
6 OF FIRE COMPANIES AND NONPROFIT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
7 AGENCIES.

8 § 79A02. PURPOSE.

9 THE PURPOSE OF THIS CHAPTER IS TO AUTHORIZE MUNICIPALITIES TO  
10 ENACT A TAX CREDIT AGAINST AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER'S EARNED INCOME  
11 AS A FINANCIAL INCENTIVE TO:

12 (1) ACKNOWLEDGE THE VALUE AND THE ABSENCE OF ANY PUBLIC  
13 COST FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE PROTECTION AND NONPROFIT EMERGENCY  
14 MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS.

15 (2) ENCOURAGE INDIVIDUALS TO VOLUNTEER OR FOR FORMER  
16 VOLUNTEERS TO CONSIDER REJOINING AS ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS IN A  
17 VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY OR NONPROFIT EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
18 SERVICES AGENCY.

19 § 79A03. DEFINITIONS.

20 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS CHAPTER  
21 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE  
22 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

23 "ACTIVE VOLUNTEER." A VOLUNTEER FOR A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY  
24 OR NONPROFIT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY WHO HAS COMPLIED  
25 WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE VOLUNTEER SERVICE CREDIT PROGRAM  
26 AND WHO IS CERTIFIED UNDER SECTION 79A23 (RELATING TO  
27 CERTIFICATION).

28 "COMMISSIONER." THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER OF THE  
29 COMMONWEALTH.

30 "EARNED INCOME TAX." A TAX ON EARNED INCOME AND NET PROFITS

1 LEVIED UNDER CHAPTER 3 OF THE LOCAL TAX ENABLING ACT.

2 "GOVERNING BODY." A CITY COUNCIL, BOROUGH COUNCIL,  
3 INCORPORATED TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD OF TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONERS,  
4 BOARD OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS, GOVERNING COUNCIL OF A HOME RULE  
5 MUNICIPALITY OR OPTIONAL PLAN MUNICIPALITY OR A GOVERNING  
6 COUNCIL OF ANY SIMILAR PURPOSE GOVERNMENT WHICH MAY BE CREATED  
7 BY STATUTE AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION AND WHICH  
8 HAS ADOPTED A TAX CREDIT UNDER THIS CHAPTER.

9 "INDIVIDUAL." A VOLUNTEER.

10 "LOCAL TAX ENABLING ACT." THE ACT OF DECEMBER 31, 1965  
11 (P.L.1257, NO.511), KNOWN AS THE LOCAL TAX ENABLING ACT.

12 "MUNICIPALITY." A CITY, BOROUGH, INCORPORATED TOWN OR <--  
13 TOWNSHIP LOCATED IN THIS COMMONWEALTH. ANY CITY, BOROUGH, <--  
14 INCORPORATED TOWN, TOWNSHIP, HOME RULE MUNICIPALITY, OPTIONAL  
15 PLAN MUNICIPALITY, OPTIONAL CHARTER MUNICIPALITY OR ANY SIMILAR  
16 GENERAL PURPOSE UNIT OF GOVERNMENT WHICH MAY BE CREATED OR  
17 AUTHORIZED BY STATUTE.

18 "NONPROFIT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY." AN EMERGENCY  
19 MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 8103 (RELATING TO  
20 DEFINITIONS) AND CHARTERED AS A NONPROFIT CORPORATION.

21 "TAX CREDIT." THE TAX CREDIT GRANTED UNDER SECTION 79A11  
22 (RELATING TO PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION).

23 "VOLUNTEER." A MEMBER OF A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY OR A  
24 NONPROFIT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY.

25 "VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY." A NONPROFIT CHARTERED CORPORATION,  
26 ASSOCIATION OR ORGANIZATION LOCATED IN THIS COMMONWEALTH THAT  
27 PROVIDES FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES AND MAY OFFER OTHER VOLUNTARY  
28 EMERGENCY SERVICES WITHIN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

29 "VOLUNTEER SERVICE CREDIT PROGRAM." THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED  
30 UNDER SECTION 79A21 (RELATING TO VOLUNTEER SERVICE CREDIT

1 PROGRAM) TO DETERMINE THE ACTIVE STATUS OF A VOLUNTEER.

2 SUBCHAPTER B

3 TAX CREDITS

4 SEC.

5 79A11. PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.

6 79A12. CLAIM.

7 79A13. LIMITATIONS.

8 § 79A11. PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.

9 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.--A MUNICIPALITY THAT LEVIES AN EARNED  
10 INCOME TAX MAY ESTABLISH BY ORDINANCE A TAX CREDIT AGAINST AN  
11 INDIVIDUAL'S LIABILITY IMPOSED UNDER CHAPTER 3 OF THE LOCAL TAX  
12 ENABLING ACT FOR ACTIVE SERVICE AS A VOLUNTEER.

13 (B) AMOUNT.--A MUNICIPALITY SHALL SET FORTH IN THE ORDINANCE  
14 THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE TAX CREDIT THAT WILL BE OFFERED TO AN  
15 INDIVIDUAL. IF AN INDIVIDUAL'S EARNED INCOME TAX LIABILITY IS  
16 LESS THAN THE AMOUNT OF THE TAX CREDIT OFFERED, THE INDIVIDUAL'S  
17 TAX CREDIT MUST EQUAL THE INDIVIDUAL'S TAX LIABILITY.

18 (C) PUBLIC NOTICE.--AT LEAST 30 DAYS PRIOR TO ADOPTION OF  
19 THE ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION, THE GOVERNING BODY SHALL GIVE  
20 PUBLIC NOTICE OF ITS INTENT TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION  
21 TO ESTABLISH A TAX CREDIT AND CONDUCT AT LEAST ONE PUBLIC  
22 HEARING ON THE ISSUE.

23 (D) SPECIFIC NOTICE.--A MUNICIPALITY THAT ESTABLISHES A TAX  
24 CREDIT UNDER THIS CHAPTER SHALL NOTIFY THE COMMISSIONER IN THE  
25 MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE COMMISSIONER.

26 § 79A12. CLAIM.

27 (A) ELIGIBILITY.--AN INDIVIDUAL WHO SATISFIES ALL OF THE  
28 FOLLOWING CRITERIA MAY CLAIM A TAX CREDIT ESTABLISHED UNDER  
29 SECTION 79A11 (RELATING TO PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION):

30 (1) THE INDIVIDUAL IS SUBJECT TO AN EARNED INCOME TAX OF

1 A MUNICIPALITY THAT HAS ESTABLISHED A TAX CREDIT UNDER  
2 SECTION 79A11.

3 (2) THE INDIVIDUAL IS CERTIFIED UNDER SECTION 79A23  
4 (RELATING TO CERTIFICATION).

5 (B) RETURN.--AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER MAY CLAIM A TAX CREDIT  
6 PROVIDED FOR UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER WHEN FILING A JOINT RETURN.  
7 THE TAX RETURN FORM SHALL PROVIDE A MECHANISM FOR SEPARATING THE  
8 LIABILITY OF AN INDIVIDUAL FOR ANY EARNED INCOME TAX IMPOSED BY  
9 THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF RESIDENCE FROM THE LIABILITY OF AN  
10 INDIVIDUAL FOR ANY EARNED INCOME TAX IMPOSED BY THE  
11 MUNICIPALITY.

12 § 79A13. LIMITATIONS.

13 A TAX CREDIT ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER MAY BE USED  
14 AGAINST THE ACTIVE VOLUNTEER'S EARNED INCOME TAX FOR THE CURRENT  
15 TAXABLE YEAR AND EVERY YEAR THEREAFTER. THE TAX CREDIT  
16 ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL  
17 THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE MUNICIPALITY REPEALS THE TAX CREDIT.

18 SUBCHAPTER C

19 VOLUNTEER SERVICE CREDIT

20 SEC.

21 79A21. VOLUNTEER SERVICE CREDIT PROGRAM.

22 79A22. SERVICE RECORD.

23 79A23. CERTIFICATION.

24 79A24. REJECTION AND APPEAL.

25 § 79A21. VOLUNTEER SERVICE CREDIT PROGRAM.

26 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.--THE GOVERNING BODY MAY ESTABLISH A  
27 VOLUNTEER SERVICE CREDIT PROGRAM THAT ESTABLISHES THE ANNUAL  
28 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF A VOLUNTEER IN ACTIVE  
29 SERVICE AT A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY OR A NONPROFIT EMERGENCY  
30 MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY.

1 (B) ACTIVITIES.--THE VOLUNTEER SERVICE CREDIT PROGRAM SHALL  
2 CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES IN DETERMINING CREDIT TOWARD A  
3 CERTIFICATION OF ACTIVE SERVICE:

4 (1) THE NUMBER OF EMERGENCY CALLS TO WHICH A VOLUNTEER  
5 RESPONDS.

6 (2) THE LEVEL OF TRAINING AND PARTICIPATION IN FORMAL  
7 TRAINING AND DRILLS FOR A VOLUNTEER.

8 (3) THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF TIME EXPENDED BY A VOLUNTEER ON  
9 ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES, INCLUDING  
10 FUNDRAISING AND FACILITY OR EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE.

11 (4) THE INVOLVEMENT IN OTHER EVENTS OR PROJECTS THAT AID  
12 THE FINANCIAL VIABILITY, EMERGENCY RESPONSE OR OPERATIONAL  
13 READINESS OF A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY OR A NONPROFIT  
14 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY.

15 (C) GUIDELINES.--THE GOVERNING BODY SHALL, WITH THE ADVICE  
16 OF THE CHIEF OF A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY AND THE SUPERVISOR OR  
17 CHIEF OF A NONPROFIT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY OR THEIR  
18 DESIGNEES, ADOPT GUIDELINES, INCLUDING FORMS AND APPLICATIONS,  
19 NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

20 (D) ELIGIBILITY LIST.--A NOTARIZED LIST OF ELIGIBLE ACTIVE  
21 VOLUNTEERS SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNING BODY, NO LATER  
22 THAN 45 DAYS BEFORE TAX NOTICES ARE TO BE DISTRIBUTED, BY THE  
23 FOLLOWING:

24 (1) THE CHIEF OF A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, WHERE  
25 APPLICABLE.

26 (2) THE SUPERVISOR OR CHIEF OF A NONPROFIT EMERGENCY  
27 MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY, WHERE APPLICABLE.

28 § 79A22. SERVICE RECORD.

29 (A) LOG.--THE CHIEF OF A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY OR THE  
30 SUPERVISOR OR CHIEF OF A NONPROFIT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

1 AGENCY OR THEIR DESIGNEES SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A SERVICE  
2 LOG THAT DOCUMENTS THE ACTIVITIES OF EACH VOLUNTEER THAT QUALIFY  
3 FOR CREDIT TOWARD ACTIVE SERVICE UNDER THE VOLUNTEER SERVICE  
4 CREDIT PROGRAM AND THE CALCULATION OF THE TOTAL CREDITS EARNED  
5 FOR EACH VOLUNTEER IN THE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY OR NONPROFIT  
6 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY.

7 (B) REVIEW.--SERVICE LOGS ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED BY  
8 VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES OR NONPROFIT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
9 AGENCIES SHALL BE SUBJECT TO PERIODIC REVIEW BY THE  
10 COMMISSIONER, THE AUDITOR GENERAL, THE GOVERNING BODY WHERE THE  
11 VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY OR NONPROFIT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
12 AGENCY IS LOCATED AND THE GOVERNING BODY WHERE THE VOLUNTEER  
13 FIRE COMPANY OR NONPROFIT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY  
14 PROVIDES SERVICES.

15 § 79A23. CERTIFICATION.

16 (A) SELF-CERTIFICATION.--THE ACTIVE VOLUNTEER SHALL SIGN AND  
17 SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION TO THE CHIEF OF THE  
18 VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY OR THE SUPERVISOR OR CHIEF OF THE  
19 NONPROFIT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY WHERE THE VOLUNTEER  
20 SERVES.

21 (B) INJURED VOLUNTEER.--AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER WHO WAS INJURED  
22 DURING A RESPONSE TO AN EMERGENCY CALL AND CAN NO LONGER SERVE  
23 AS AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER BECAUSE OF THE INJURY AND WHO WOULD  
24 OTHERWISE BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE TAX CREDIT SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR  
25 THE TAX CREDIT FOR THE SUCCEEDING FIVE TAX YEARS.

26 (C) LOCAL SIGN-OFF.--THE CHIEF AND ANOTHER OFFICER OF THE  
27 VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY AND THE SUPERVISOR OR CHIEF AND ANOTHER  
28 OFFICER OF THE NONPROFIT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY SHALL  
29 SIGN THE APPLICATION ATTESTING TO THE INDIVIDUAL'S STATUS AS AN  
30 ACTIVE VOLUNTEER OR THAT THE INDIVIDUAL CAN NO LONGER SERVE AS

1 AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER DUE TO INJURY. THE APPLICATION SHALL THEN BE  
2 FORWARDED TO THE MUNICIPALITY, AS APPROPRIATE, FOR FINAL REVIEW  
3 AND PROCESSING.

4 § 79A24. REJECTION AND APPEAL.

5 (A) GENERAL RULE.--A GOVERNING BODY THAT ESTABLISHES A TAX  
6 CREDIT UNDER THIS CHAPTER SHALL ADOPT, BY ORDINANCE, A PROCESS  
7 FOR REJECTING A CLAIM BY AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER WHO DOES NOT  
8 SATISFY ALL OF THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS CHAPTER FOR  
9 EACH TYPE OF TAX CREDIT PROVIDED UNDER THIS CHAPTER.

10 (B) APPEAL.--AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO  
11 APPEAL A CLAIM THAT HAS BEEN REJECTED BY A GOVERNING BODY. THE  
12 GOVERNING BODY SHALL ESTABLISH, BY ORDINANCE, THE PROCEDURE BY  
13 WHICH A REJECTED CLAIM CAN BE APPEALED.

14 SUBCHAPTER D

15 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

16 SEC.

17 79A31. PENALTIES FOR FALSE REPORTING.

18 § 79A31. PENALTIES FOR FALSE REPORTING.

19 THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY:

20 (1) ANY PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY MAKES OR CONSPIRES TO MAKE  
21 A FALSE SERVICE RECORD REPORT UNDER THIS CHAPTER COMMITS A  
22 MISDEMEANOR OF THE FIRST DEGREE PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OF  
23 \$2,500.

24 (2) ANY PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY PROVIDES OR CONSPIRES TO  
25 PROVIDE FALSE INFORMATION THAT IS USED TO COMPILE A SERVICE  
26 RECORD REPORT UNDER THIS CHAPTER COMMITS A MISDEMEANOR OF THE  
27 FIRST DEGREE PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OF \$2,500.

28 SECTION 2. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN 60 DAYS.