

DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Patron** David R. Suetterlein

3. **Committee** Senate Finance

4. **Title** Individual Income and Corporate Income Tax Credit; Virginia National Guard Employment and Self-Employment Tax Credit

2. **Bill Number** SB 1704

House of Origin:

 X **Introduced**

 Substitute

 Engrossed

Second House:

 In Committee

 Substitute

 Enrolled

5. **Summary/Purpose:**

This bill would provide an individual and corporate income tax credit to an employer for a certain percentage of wages paid to qualified Virginia National Guard employees. This bill would also provide a self-employed Virginia National Guard member an individual and corporate income tax credit for a certain percentage of the income attributable to his or her trade or business. The applicable percentage for both portions of this credit would be 25 percent for employees who were in military pay status for 65 or more days during the taxable year, and 15 percent for employees who were in military pay status between 44 and 65 days during the taxable year. This credit would not be subject to an annual credit cap.

This bill would be effective for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2019 and before January 1, 2024.

6. **Budget amendment necessary:** No.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates are:** Not available. (See Line 8.)

8. **Fiscal implications:**

Administrative Costs

The Department of Taxation ("the Department") considers implementation of this bill as routine, and does not require additional funding.

Revenue Impact

This bill would result in an unknown negative General Fund revenue impact beginning in Fiscal Year 2020. In 2018, there were approximately 8,474 National Guard members in Virginia. However, it is unknown to what extent employers and self-employed National Guard members would qualify for and claim this credit.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:

Department of Taxation

10. Technical amendment necessary: Yes.

The portion of this bill that would permit a credit for self-employed National Guard members provides that the credit is equal to a percentage of an employee's income. The Department understands that the use of the term "an employee" for purposes of this credit is referring to a National Guard employee. However, self-employed National Guard members are not National Guard employees for purposes of this credit. Therefore, as currently drafted, the portion of the credit intended to apply to the income of self-employed National Guard members would not apply to such individuals. To address this issue, the Department suggests the following technical amendments:

Line 36: Replace "employee" with "self-employed individual"

Line 37: Replace "employee" with "self-employed individual"

Line 39: Replace "employee" with "self-employed individual"

11. Other comments:

Virginia Military Tax Preferences

Taxpayers may subtract the following military items for the purposes of computing Virginia taxable income:

- Wages or salaries received for service in the Virginia National Guard, not exceeding income for thirty-nine days of service or \$3,000, whichever is less. This subtraction only applies to persons in the ranks of O3 and below.
- All military pay and allowances earned while serving in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area, to the extent they were included in federal adjusted gross income.
- \$15,000 of military basic pay for military personnel on extended active duty for periods in excess of ninety days. The subtraction amount is reduced dollar-for-dollar by the amount which the taxpayer's military basic pay exceeds \$15,000 and will be reduced to zero if such pay is equal to or exceeds \$30,000.
- Any amount received as military retirement income by an individual awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- The amount of military death gratuity payments received after September 11, 2001, by survivors of military personnel who are killed in the line of duty. This subtraction amount must be reduced dollar-for-dollar by the amount that is allowed as an exclusion from federal adjusted gross income to the survivor on his or her federal income tax return.

For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2011, Virginia exempts from taxation the real property, including the joint real property of a husband and wife, and the land, not exceeding one acre, upon which the real property is situated of any military veteran who has been rated by the VA to have a 100 percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability, and who occupies the real property as his or her principal place of residence. The surviving spouse of a veteran may also qualify for this exemption, so long as the following conditions are met: the veteran's death occurred on or after January 1, 2011; the surviving spouse does not remarry; and the surviving spouse continues to occupy such real property as his or her principal place of residence.

Proposed Legislation

This bill would provide an individual and corporate income tax credit to an employer for a certain percentage of wages paid to qualified Virginia National Guard employees. This bill would also provide a self-employed Virginia National Guard member an individual and corporate income tax credit for a certain percentage of the income attributable to his or her trade or business. The applicable percentage for both portions of this credit would be 25 percent for employees who were in military pay status for 65 or more days during the taxable year, and 15 percent for employees who were in military pay status between 44 and 65 days during the taxable year. The credit would not be subject to an annual credit cap.

"National Guard employee" would be defined as an employee of an employer that is also an active member of the National Guard of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"Self-employed National Guard member" would be defined as an active member of the National Guard of the Commonwealth of Virginia who derives a substantial portion of his income from a trade or business;

- Operated by the member as a sole proprietor,
- Through which the member has attempted to earn taxable income, and
- For which the member has filed the appropriate Internal Revenue Service Form 1040, Schedule C or F, for the previous taxable year.

"Employer" would be defined the same as that term is defined for Virginia income tax withholding purposes.

"Wages" would be defined the same as that term is defined for Virginia income tax withholding purposes and includes wages or salaries paid during the deployment of a National Guard employee.

Self-employed National Guard members would be prohibited from claiming this credit if an employer is also claiming the credit for the same National Guard member.

If the amount of credits exceeds the taxpayer's tax liability for the taxable year, the taxpayer would be allowed to carry over the excess for credit against income taxes for the next five years or until the total amount of the tax credit has been taken, whichever occurs first.

This bill would be effective for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2019 and before January 1, 2024.

Similar Bills

House Bill 2608 is identical to this bill.

House Bill 1756 would provide an individual income tax subtraction for the amount of the annual retirement compensation received for service as a member of the United States Armed Forces or the Virginia National Guard by a veteran who has a 100 percent service-connected permanent and total disability, and whose federal adjusted gross income does not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level for a four-person household.

cc : Secretary of Finance

Date: 1/26/2019 RWC
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