

HCS HB 1386 -- VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER DEDUCTION

SPONSOR: English

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Ways and Means by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Financial Institutions and Taxation by a vote of 9 to 0.

Beginning January 1, 2017, this bill authorizes a \$500 income tax deduction for a volunteer firefighter who completes during the year at least 12 hours of any firefighter training program approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal within the Department of Public Safety. If a firefighter completes at least 36 hours of training by completing the Basic Fire Fighter Program or being certified after completing the division's Fire Fighter I or Fire Fighter II Program, the firefighter may claim a \$1,000 deduction.

The provisions of the bill will expire December 31 six years after the effective date.

This bill is similar to HB 444 (2015).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that more than half of all firefighters are volunteer and one third of the population are protected by volunteer firefighters. These volunteers take time away from their family. This will help with recruitment and retention, and reward volunteer firefighters.

Testifying for the bill were Representative English; Missouri Fire Service Alliance; and Creg Carrell, State Fire Marshal's Office.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.