

1 SENATE BILL 473

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Carrie Hamblen and Leo Jaramillo

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO INCOME TAX; CREATING THE VOLUNTEER SEARCH AND  
12 RESCUE INCOME TAX CREDIT.

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14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

15 SECTION 1. A new section of the Income Tax Act is enacted  
16 to read:

17 "[NEW MATERIAL] VOLUNTEER SEARCH AND RESCUE INCOME TAX  
18 CREDIT.--

19 A. Prior to taxable year 2035, a taxpayer who is  
20 not a dependent of another individual and volunteers in New  
21 Mexico at least six times or for at least sixty hours in a  
22 taxable year may claim a tax credit against the taxpayer's tax  
23 liability for that taxable year imposed pursuant to the Income  
24 Tax Act. The tax credit provided in this section may be  
25 referred to as the "volunteer search and rescue income tax

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1 credit".

2 B. The volunteer search and rescue income tax  
3 credit shall be in an amount equal to:

4 (1) five hundred dollars (\$500) if the  
5 taxpayer volunteers between six and eleven times or volunteers  
6 for a total of between sixty and one hundred twenty hours; or

7 (2) one thousand dollars (\$1,000) if the  
8 taxpayer volunteers twelve times or more or volunteers for a  
9 total of at least one hundred twenty hours.

10 C. A taxpayer who seeks to claim the tax credit  
11 provided by this section shall apply for certification of  
12 eligibility from the resource officer on forms and in the  
13 manner prescribed by the resource officer. The aggregate  
14 amount of tax credits that may be certified pursuant to this  
15 subsection for any taxable year is three million dollars  
16 (\$3,000,000). Applications for certification received after  
17 the limitation on the aggregate amount of credits has been met  
18 in a calendar year shall not be approved. Completed  
19 applications shall be considered in the order received.

20 D. If the resource officer determines that a  
21 taxpayer meets the requirements to claim the tax credit, the  
22 resource officer shall issue to the taxpayer a dated  
23 certificate of eligibility providing the amount of the tax  
24 credit for which the taxpayer is eligible and the taxable year  
25 in which the credit may be claimed. The resource officer shall

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1 provide the department with the certificates of eligibility  
2 issued pursuant to this subsection in an electronic format at  
3 regularly agreed-upon intervals.

4 E. To receive the tax credit provided by this  
5 section, a taxpayer shall claim the credit on forms and in the  
6 manner prescribed by the department.

7 F. That portion of the tax credit that exceeds a  
8 taxpayer's tax liability in the taxable year in which the tax  
9 credit is claimed shall be refunded.

10 G. Married individuals filing separate returns for  
11 a taxable year for which they could have filed a joint return  
12 may each claim only one-half of the volunteer search and rescue  
13 income tax credit that would have been claimed on a joint  
14 return.

15 H. The department shall include the tax credit in  
16 the tax expenditure budget compiled pursuant to Section 7-1-84  
17 NMSA 1978.

18 I. As used in this section:

19 (1) "mission" means each separate group effort  
20 of search and rescue that is approved and issued a mission  
21 number by the New Mexico state police division of the  
22 department of public safety;

23 (2) "resource officer" means the state search  
24 and rescue resource officer in the department of public safety;

25 (3) "search and rescue" means the employment,

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1 coordination and utilization of available resources and  
2 personnel in searching for, rendering aid to and preserving the  
3 lives of people lost, stranded, entrapped, injured or in  
4 distress and removing these people from the site of a disaster,  
5 emergency or hazard to a place of safety; and

6 (4) "volunteer" means participating in a  
7 search and rescue mission as a nonsalaried volunteer."

8 SECTION 2. DELAYED REPEAL.--Section 1 of this act is  
9 repealed effective January 1, 2036.

10 SECTION 3. APPLICABILITY.--The provisions of this act  
11 apply to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.