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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO TAXATION

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, Speakman, Canario, Vella-Wilkinson, and Williams

Date Introduced: January 23, 2020

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 44-30-12 of the General Laws in Chapter 44-30 entitled "Personal  
2 Income Tax" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **44-30-12. Rhode Island income of a resident individual.**

4           (a) General. The Rhode Island income of a resident individual means his or her adjusted  
5 gross income for federal income tax purposes, with the modifications specified in this section.

6           (b) Modifications increasing federal adjusted gross income. There shall be added to  
7 federal adjusted gross income:

8           (1) Interest income on obligations of any state, or its political subdivisions, other than  
9 Rhode Island or its political subdivisions;

10           (2) Interest or dividend income on obligations or securities of any authority, commission,  
11 or instrumentality of the United States, but not of Rhode Island or its political subdivisions, to the  
12 extent exempted by the laws of the United States from federal income tax but not from state  
13 income taxes;

14           (3) The modification described in § 44-30-25(g);

15           (4)(i) The amount defined below of a nonqualified withdrawal made from an account in  
16 the tuition savings program pursuant to § 16-57-6.1. For purposes of this section, a nonqualified  
17 withdrawal is:

18           (A) A transfer or rollover to a qualified tuition program under Section 529 of the Internal  
19 Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 529, other than to the tuition savings program referred to in § 16-57-

1 6.1; and

2 (B) A withdrawal or distribution that is:

3 (I) Not applied on a timely basis to pay "qualified higher education expenses" as defined  
4 in § 16-57-3(12) of the beneficiary of the account from which the withdrawal is made;

5 (II) Not made for a reason referred to in § 16-57-6.1(e); or

6 (III) Not made in other circumstances for which an exclusion from tax made applicable  
7 by Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 529, pertains if the transfer, rollover,  
8 withdrawal, or distribution is made within two (2) taxable years following the taxable year for  
9 which a contributions modification pursuant to subsection (c)(4) of this section is taken based on  
10 contributions to any tuition savings program account by the person who is the participant of the  
11 account at the time of the contribution, whether or not the person is the participant of the account  
12 at the time of the transfer, rollover, withdrawal or distribution;

13 (ii) In the event of a nonqualified withdrawal under subsection (b)(4)(i)(A) or (b)(4)(i)(B)  
14 of this section, there shall be added to the federal adjusted gross income of that person for the  
15 taxable year of the withdrawal an amount equal to the lesser of:

16 (A) The amount equal to the nonqualified withdrawal reduced by the sum of any  
17 administrative fee or penalty imposed under the tuition savings program in connection with the  
18 nonqualified withdrawal plus the earnings portion thereof, if any, includible in computing the  
19 person's federal adjusted gross income for the taxable year; and

20 (B) The amount of the person's contribution modification pursuant to subsection (c)(4) of  
21 this section for the person's taxable year of the withdrawal and the two (2) prior taxable years less  
22 the amount of any nonqualified withdrawal for the two (2) prior taxable years included in  
23 computing the person's Rhode Island income by application of this subsection for those years.  
24 Any amount added to federal adjusted gross income pursuant to this subdivision shall constitute  
25 Rhode Island income for residents, nonresidents and part-year residents;

26 (5) The modification described in § 44-30-25.1(d)(3)(i);

27 (6) The amount equal to any unemployment compensation received but not included in  
28 federal adjusted gross income; and

29 (7) The amount equal to the deduction allowed for sales tax paid for a purchase of a  
30 qualified motor vehicle as defined by the Internal Revenue Code § 164(a)(6).

31 (c) Modifications reducing federal adjusted gross income. There shall be subtracted from  
32 federal adjusted gross income:

33 (1) Any interest income on obligations of the United States and its possessions to the  
34 extent includible in gross income for federal income tax purposes, and any interest or dividend

1 income on obligations, or securities of any authority, commission, or instrumentality of the  
2 United States to the extent includible in gross income for federal income tax purposes but exempt  
3 from state income taxes under the laws of the United States; provided, that the amount to be  
4 subtracted shall in any case be reduced by any interest on indebtedness incurred or continued to  
5 purchase or carry obligations or securities the income of which is exempt from Rhode Island  
6 personal income tax, to the extent the interest has been deducted in determining federal adjusted  
7 gross income or taxable income;

8 (2) A modification described in § 44-30-25(f) or § 44-30-1.1(c)(1);

9 (3) The amount of any withdrawal or distribution from the "tuition savings program"  
10 referred to in § 16-57-6.1 that is included in federal adjusted gross income, other than a  
11 withdrawal or distribution or portion of a withdrawal or distribution that is a nonqualified  
12 withdrawal;

13 (4) Contributions made to an account under the tuition savings program, including the  
14 "contributions carryover" pursuant to subsection (c)(4)(iv) of this section, if any, subject to the  
15 following limitations, restrictions and qualifications:

16 (i) The aggregate subtraction pursuant to this subdivision for any taxable year of the  
17 taxpayer shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) or one thousand dollars (\$1,000) if a joint  
18 return;

19 (ii) The following shall not be considered contributions:

20 (A) Contributions made by any person to an account who is not a participant of the  
21 account at the time the contribution is made;

22 (B) Transfers or rollovers to an account from any other tuition savings program account  
23 or from any other "qualified tuition program" under section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26  
24 U.S.C. § 529; or

25 (C) A change of the beneficiary of the account;

26 (iii) The subtraction pursuant to this subdivision shall not reduce the taxpayer's federal  
27 adjusted gross income to less than zero (0);

28 (iv) The contributions carryover to a taxable year for purpose of this subdivision is the  
29 excess, if any, of the total amount of contributions actually made by the taxpayer to the tuition  
30 savings program for all preceding taxable years for which this subsection is effective over the  
31 sum of:

32 (A) The total of the subtractions under this subdivision allowable to the taxpayer for all  
33 such preceding taxable years; and

34 (B) That part of any remaining contribution carryover at the end of the taxable year

1 which exceeds the amount of any nonqualified withdrawals during the year and the prior two (2)  
2 taxable years not included in the addition provided for in this subdivision for those years. Any  
3 such part shall be disregarded in computing the contributions carryover for any subsequent  
4 taxable year;

5 (v) For any taxable year for which a contributions carryover is applicable, the taxpayer  
6 shall include a computation of the carryover with the taxpayer's Rhode Island personal income  
7 tax return for that year, and if for any taxable year on which the carryover is based the taxpayer  
8 filed a joint Rhode Island personal income tax return but filed a return on a basis other than  
9 jointly for a subsequent taxable year, the computation shall reflect how the carryover is being  
10 allocated between the prior joint filers;

11 (5) The modification described in § 44-30-25.1(d)(1);

12 (6) Amounts deemed taxable income to the taxpayer due to payment or provision of  
13 insurance benefits to a dependent, including a domestic partner pursuant to chapter 12 of title 36  
14 or other coverage plan;

15 (7) Modification for organ transplantation.

16 (i) An individual may subtract up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) from federal adjusted  
17 gross income if he or she, while living, donates one or more of his or her human organs to another  
18 human being for human organ transplantation, except that for purposes of this subsection, "human  
19 organ" means all or part of a liver, pancreas, kidney, intestine, lung, or bone marrow. A subtract  
20 modification that is claimed hereunder may be claimed in the taxable year in which the human  
21 organ transplantation occurs.

22 (ii) An individual may claim that subtract modification hereunder only once, and the  
23 subtract modification may be claimed for only the following unreimbursed expenses that are  
24 incurred by the claimant and related to the claimant's organ donation:

25 (A) Travel expenses.

26 (B) Lodging expenses.

27 (C) Lost wages.

28 (iii) The subtract modification hereunder may not be claimed by a part-time resident or a  
29 nonresident of this state;

30 (8) Modification for taxable Social Security income.

31 (i) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016:

32 (A) For a person who has attained the age used for calculating full or unreduced social  
33 security retirement benefits who files a return as an unmarried individual, head of household, or  
34 married filing separate whose federal adjusted gross income for the taxable year is less than

1 eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000); or

2 (B) A married individual filing jointly or individual filing qualifying widow(er) who has  
3 attained the age used for calculating full or unreduced social security retirement benefits whose  
4 joint federal adjusted gross income for the taxable year is less than one hundred thousand dollars  
5 (\$100,000), an amount equal to the social security benefits includable in federal adjusted gross  
6 income.

7 (ii) Adjustment for inflation. The dollar amount contained in subsections (c)(8)(i)(A) and  
8 (c)(8)(i)(B) of this section shall be increased annually by an amount equal to:

9 (A) Such dollar amount contained in subsections (c)(8)(i)(A) and (c)(8)(i)(B) of this  
10 section adjusted for inflation using a base tax year of 2000, multiplied by;

11 (B) The cost-of-living adjustment with a base year of 2000.

12 (iii) For the purposes of this section the cost-of-living adjustment for any calendar year is  
13 the percentage (if any) by which the consumer price index for the preceding calendar year  
14 exceeds the consumer price index for the base year. The consumer price index for any calendar  
15 year is the average of the consumer price index as of the close of the twelve-month (12) period  
16 ending on August 31, of such calendar year.

17 (iv) For the purpose of this section the term "consumer price index" means the last  
18 consumer price index for all urban consumers published by the department of labor. For the  
19 purpose of this section the revision of the consumer price index which is most consistent with the  
20 consumer price index for calendar year 1986 shall be used.

21 (v) If any increase determined under this section is not a multiple of fifty dollars  
22 (\$50.00), such increase shall be rounded to the next lower multiple of fifty dollars (\$50.00). In the  
23 case of a married individual filing separate return, if any increase determined under this section is  
24 not a multiple of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), such increase shall be rounded to the next lower  
25 multiple of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00);

26 (9) Modification for up to fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) of taxable retirement income  
27 from certain pension plans or annuities.

28 (i) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2017, a modification shall be allowed  
29 for up to fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) of taxable pension and/or annuity income that is  
30 included in federal adjusted gross income for the taxable year:

31 (A) For a person who has attained the age used for calculating full or unreduced social  
32 security retirement benefits who files a return as an unmarried individual, head of household, or  
33 married filing separate whose federal adjusted gross income for such taxable year is less than the  
34 amount used for the modification contained in subsection (c)(8)(i)(A) of this section an amount

1 not to exceed \$15,000 of taxable pension and/or annuity income includable in federal adjusted  
2 gross income; or

3 (B) For a married individual filing jointly or individual filing qualifying widow(er) who  
4 has attained the age used for calculating full or unreduced social security retirement benefits  
5 whose joint federal adjusted gross income for such taxable year is less than the amount used for  
6 the modification contained in subsection (c)(8)(i)(B) of this section an amount not to exceed  
7 \$15,000 of taxable pension and/or annuity income includable in federal adjusted gross income.

8 (ii) Adjustment for inflation. The dollar amount contained by reference in subsections  
9 (c)(9)(i)(A) and (c)(9)(i)(B) of this section shall be increased annually for tax years beginning on  
10 or after January 1, 2018 by an amount equal to:

11 (A) Such dollar amount contained by reference in subsections (c)(9)(i)(A) and  
12 (c)(9)(i)(B) of this section adjusted for inflation using a base tax year of 2000, multiplied by;

13 (B) The cost-of-living adjustment with a base year of 2000.

14 (iii) For the purposes of this section, the cost-of-living adjustment for any calendar year is  
15 the percentage (if any) by which the consumer price index for the preceding calendar year  
16 exceeds the consumer price index for the base year. The consumer price index for any calendar  
17 year is the average of the consumer price index as of the close of the twelve-month (12) period  
18 ending on August 31, of such calendar year.

19 (iv) For the purpose of this section, the term "consumer price index" means the last  
20 consumer price index for all urban consumers published by the department of labor. For the  
21 purpose of this section, the revision of the consumer price index which is most consistent with the  
22 consumer price index for calendar year 1986 shall be used.

23 (v) If any increase determined under this section is not a multiple of fifty dollars  
24 (\$50.00), such increase shall be rounded to the next lower multiple of fifty dollars (\$50.00). In the  
25 case of a married individual filing a separate return, if any increase determined under this section  
26 is not a multiple of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), such increase shall be rounded to the next lower  
27 multiple of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00); and

28 (10) Modification for Rhode Island investment in opportunity zones. For purposes of a  
29 taxpayer's state tax liability, in the case of any investment in a Rhode Island opportunity zone by  
30 the taxpayer for at least seven (7) years, a modification to income shall be allowed for the  
31 incremental difference between the benefit allowed under 26 U.S.C. § 1400Z-2(b)(2)(B)(iv) and  
32 the federal benefit allowed under 26 U.S.C. § 1400Z-2(c).

33 [\(11\) Modifications for state community service volunteerism. For any taxable year of the](#)  
34 [taxpayer, an individual may subtract up to five hundred dollars \(\\$500\), or up to one thousand](#)

1 dollars (\$1,000) if a joint return, for approved state community service volunteerism hours, as  
2 described in § 44-30-27.1.

3 (d) Modification for Rhode Island fiduciary adjustment. There shall be added to, or  
4 subtracted from, federal adjusted gross income (as the case may be) the taxpayer's share, as  
5 beneficiary of an estate or trust, of the Rhode Island fiduciary adjustment determined under § 44-  
6 30-17.

7 (e) Partners. The amounts of modifications required to be made under this section by a  
8 partner, which relate to items of income or deduction of a partnership, shall be determined under  
9 § 44-30-15.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 44-30 of the General Laws entitled "Personal Income Tax" is  
11 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

12 **44-30-27.1. Credit for state community service volunteerism hours.**

13 (a) The department of administration (the "department") shall identify and certify not-for-  
14 profit entities and departments within municipal entities (the "entities") that shall be eligible to  
15 issue credits (the "credits") for state community service volunteerism hours. To be deemed an  
16 entity eligible to issue credits under this section, an entity shall apply to the department to be  
17 identified and certified as an eligible entity, on forms designed by the department. The  
18 department shall develop a criteria to determine whether voluntary community service hours  
19 rendered to the entity would confer a sufficient benefit to the community so as to warrant  
20 designation as an entity eligible to issue credits under this section.

21 (b) Upon presentation of written certification by an entity certified under this section, an  
22 individual domiciled in the state for the entire tax year shall be entitled to an income tax credit for  
23 community service hours voluntarily rendered to the entity, and for which no compensation is  
24 provided to the person claiming the credit for the service provided. Entities may establish a credit  
25 rate of up to twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per hour of community service rendered to the entity.  
26 The income tax credit shall not exceed the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) per year for an  
27 individual, or up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per year for a joint return. Any amount of  
28 income tax credit not deductible or not deducted for the taxable year of certification shall not be  
29 carried over to the following year.

30 (c) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of  
31 this section.

32 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO TAXATION

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1           This act would provide a tax credit for state community service hours provided by state  
2 residents to certain not-for-profit entities and municipal departments that are certified by the  
3 department of administration to issue credits for state community service volunteerism hours.  
4 The total amount of the credits would not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) for an individual, or  
5 up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for a joint return, per year.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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