

Subject Additional standard deduction for blind and senior taxpayers

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Overview

Minnesota uses federal taxable income (FTI) as the starting point for its income tax system. As part of calculating FTI, a taxpayer may subtract either itemized deductions or the standard deduction amount—as a result, the federal standard deduction amount is incorporated into Minnesota’s income tax.

Under federal law, a taxpayer is allowed an “additional standard deduction” amount if the taxpayer or the taxpayer’s spouse is age 65 or blind. In tax year 2019, married taxpayers and surviving spouses are forecast to receive an additional standard deduction of \$1,300 for each spouse that was blind or age 65; single taxpayers and heads of households are forecast to receive an additional \$1,650.

A taxpayer may claim one additional standard deduction amount for each spouse that was 65 or blind—for example, a married couple filing jointly could receive four additional standard deduction amounts if both taxpayers were blind and age 65. This would result in a total additional standard deduction of \$5,200 (4 x \$1,300). An unmarried 65 year-old would receive one additional standard deduction of \$1,650.

H.F. 1032, as amended by the A1 amendment, increases the “additional” standard deduction amount for both married and unmarried taxpayers to \$2,150, and indexes this amount for inflation.