

**SENATE, No. 1538**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**218th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 5, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO**

**District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator A.R.Bucco**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides for voluntary contributions by taxpayers on gross income tax returns for pediatric cancer research.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/27/2018)**

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1 AN ACT concerning voluntary contributions through gross income  
2 tax returns to support pediatric cancer research, supplementing  
3 chapter 9 of Title 54A of the New Jersey Statutes and  
4 supplementing and amending P.L.1983, c.6 (C.52:9U-1 et seq.).  
5

6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
7 of New Jersey:

8  
9 1. (New section) a. There is established in the Department of  
10 the Treasury a special fund to be known as the “New Jersey  
11 Pediatric Cancer Research Fund.”

12 b. Each taxpayer shall have the opportunity to indicate on the  
13 taxpayer’s New Jersey gross income tax return that a portion of the  
14 taxpayer’s refund or an enclosed contribution shall be deposited in  
15 the special fund.

16 c. Any costs incurred by the Division of Taxation for  
17 collection or administration attributable to this act may be deducted  
18 from receipts collected pursuant to this act, as determined by the  
19 Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the  
20 Department of the Treasury. The State Treasurer shall deposit net  
21 contributions collected pursuant to this section to the “New Jersey  
22 Pediatric Cancer Research Fund.”

23 d. The Legislature shall annually appropriate all funds  
24 deposited in the “New Jersey Pediatric Cancer Research Fund”  
25 established pursuant to this section to the New Jersey State  
26 Commission on Cancer Research, established pursuant to section 4  
27 of P.L.1983, c.6 (C.52:9U-4) for pediatric cancer research projects.  
28 As used in this subsection “pediatric cancer research project” means  
29 a scientific research project, which is approved by the commission  
30 and which focuses on the causes, prevention, education, screening,  
31 treatment or cure of pediatric cancer and may include, but is not  
32 limited to, basic, clinical, and epidemiologic research.  
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34 2. (New section) The New Jersey State Commission on Cancer  
35 Research shall solicit, receive, evaluate and approve applications of  
36 qualifying research institutions for grants from the “New Jersey  
37 Pediatric Cancer Research Fund,” established pursuant to section 1  
38 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),  
39 to conduct research relating to the causes, prevention, education,  
40 screening, treatment and cure of pediatric cancer. As used in this  
41 section, “qualified research institution” may include academic  
42 medical institutions, State or local government agencies, public or  
43 private organizations within New Jersey, and any other institution  
44 approved by the commission, which is conducting a pediatric cancer  
45 research project.

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

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1       3. Section 8 of P.L.1983, c.6 (C.52:9U-8) is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3       8. \$1,000,000.00 shall be appropriated annually from the  
4 Cancer Research Fund established by P.L.1982, c.40 (C.54:40A-8 et  
5 al.) to effectuate the purposes of this act, except that only  
6 \$500,000.00 shall be appropriated from the fund in fiscal year  
7 1982-1983. The full amount of the annual appropriation from the  
8 Cancer Research Fund mandated by this section to effectuate the  
9 purposes of this act shall be made notwithstanding any monies  
10 received by taxpayer voluntary contribution through gross income  
11 tax return to any cancer research fund designated for a specific type  
12 or category of cancer by State law.

13 (cf: P.L.1983, c.6, s.8)

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15       4. This act shall take effect immediately and apply to taxable  
16 years beginning on or after January 1 next following enactment.

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STATEMENT

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21       This bill establishes the “New Jersey Pediatric Cancer Research  
22 Fund” and provides for a designation on the State gross income tax  
23 return that will permit taxpayers to make voluntary contributions to  
24 the fund to support pediatric cancer research projects that are  
25 approved by the New Jersey State Commission on Cancer Research.

26       The incidence of pediatric cancer is ever increasing, and its  
27 impact on society and the families of those affected, devastating,  
28 yet surprisingly little progress is being made toward uncovering the  
29 causes of childhood cancer and finding new and targeted therapies.  
30 Cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children under the  
31 age of 15 in the United States, and every year, approximately  
32 13,500 children and adolescents under age 20 are diagnosed with  
33 cancer. More children lose their battle with cancer each year than  
34 to AIDS, asthma, cystic fibrosis and diabetes combined. The  
35 majority of those children that survive childhood cancer go on to  
36 experience chronic medical problems as a result of their treatment,  
37 detracting from their quality of life and diminishing their ability to  
38 contribute fully to society.

39       Pediatric cancer encompasses multiple types and subtypes of  
40 cancers, the causes of which are largely unknown. Unlike certain  
41 adult cancers, pediatric cancer is not strongly linked to lifestyle and  
42 strikes randomly, across all ethnic groups, socioeconomic class and  
43 geographic regions. Currently, less than 5 percent of federal  
44 funding for cancer research is dedicated specifically to  
45 understanding and seeking cures for pediatric cancer, and only two  
46 drugs specifically targeting childhood cancer have been approved in  
47 the past 20 years.

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1       This bill is in honor of Aaron Newton, a young boy in West  
2       Milford, who recovered from cancer and whose parents, Kerrie and  
3       Scott, advocate for awareness surrounding childhood cancer.