

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 40

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 1, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Urges federal Internal Revenue Service to devote additional resources to combat recent surge in tax-related scams that seek to defraud unsuspecting taxpayers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/19/2019)

1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the federal Internal Revenue
2 Service to devote additional resources to combat the recent surge
3 in tax-related scams that seek to defraud unsuspecting taxpayers.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, The federal Internal Revenue Service has reported a recent
6 surge in tax-related scams that seek to defraud unsuspecting
7 taxpayers; and
8 **WHEREAS**, These tax-related scams typically involve criminal
9 conspirators and other scammers who make or send unsolicited
10 phone calls, text messages, or emails claiming to be agents working
11 on behalf of the federal Internal Revenue Service; and
12 **WHEREAS**, The scammers impersonating federal agents demand that
13 the victim pay a bogus tax bill to settle an unpaid tax liability, and
14 often con the victim into making payment on the bogus bill by
15 using threats of arrest, deportation, license revocation, or the
16 seizure of valuable assets; and
17 **WHEREAS**, In a recent report to the United States Congress, the federal
18 Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration indicated that
19 between October 2013 and March 2016, the inspector general
20 received more than one million contacts from taxpayers nationally
21 who reported that they had received telephone calls from
22 individuals who claimed to be employees of the federal Internal
23 Revenue Service; and
24 **WHEREAS**, The inspector general's report to Congress also indicated
25 that during that same period of time more than 5,700 victims
26 nationally reported that they had paid impersonators a total of \$31
27 million, and in New Jersey alone more than 300 victims reported
28 paying a total of \$1.47 million stemming from these tax-related
29 scams; and
30 **WHEREAS**, To combat the recent surge and protect taxpayers from
31 becoming victims in the future, the inspector general has
32 established an "advise and disrupt" approach to the scams that
33 advises the scammers that their activity is fraudulent and criminal
34 and shuts down the modes of communication that are used to
35 perpetuate the scams; and
36 **WHEREAS**, The inspector general has also sought to combat the surge
37 by using traditional media to inform taxpayers about the dangers
38 posed by the scams and by working with partners in the public and
39 private sectors to remind taxpayers to remain on "high alert" during
40 tax filing season when attempts by impersonators to contact
41 taxpayers are at their peak; and
42 **WHEREAS**, Despite these efforts, additional federal resources are
43 needed to combat the surge, especially in New Jersey and other
44 states in which large populations of seniors and recent immigrants
45 have been the preferred target of these tax-related scams and other
46 similar fraudulent schemes due to their perceived vulnerability and
47 fear of reporting the abuses to the appropriate authorities; and

1 **WHEREAS**, The additional federal resources could be used to more
2 fully understand the extent of the problem, to better identify the
3 individuals and criminal organizations responsible for perpetuating
4 the scams, and to develop more viable methods for informing New
5 Jersey's seniors and immigrant communities about the dangers
6 posed by the scams and how to report suspected threats; now
7 therefore,

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

11 1. The federal Internal Revenue Service is urged to devote
12 additional resources to New Jersey and other states in which large
13 populations of seniors and recent immigrants have been the
14 preferred target of a recent surge in tax-related scams perpetrated by
15 criminal conspirators and other scammers who make or send
16 unsolicited phone calls, text messages, or emails claiming to be
17 agents working on behalf of the federal Internal Revenue Service in
18 an effort to con victims into making payment on bogus tax bills.

2. The additional resources could be used to more fully understand the extent of the problem, to better identify the individuals and criminal organizations responsible for perpetuating the scams, and to develop more viable methods for informing New Jersey's seniors and recent immigrants about the dangers posed by the scams and how to report suspected threats.

3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, each member of Congress elected from this State, and the Commissioner of the federal Internal Revenue Service.

36 STATEMENT

38 This resolution urges the federal Internal Revenue Service to
39 devote additional resources to New Jersey and other states in which
40 large populations of seniors and recent immigrants have been the
41 preferred target of a recent surge in tax-related scams perpetrated by
42 criminal conspirators and other scammers who make or send
43 unsolicited phone calls, text messages, or emails claiming to be
44 agents working on behalf of the federal Internal Revenue Service in
45 an effort to con victims into making payment on bogus tax bills.
46 The additional resources could be used to more fully understand the
47 extent of the problem, to better identify the individuals and criminal
48 organizations responsible for perpetuating the scams, and to

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- 1 develop more viable methods for informing New Jersey's seniors
- 2 and recent immigrants about the dangers posed by the scams and
- 3 how to report suspected threats.