

ASSEMBLY, No. 1282

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblywoman GILL and Assemblyman COHEN

1 AN ACT concerning voluntary contributions through gross income tax  
2 returns to support direct services to crime victims, supplementing  
3 Title 54A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. Each taxpayer shall have the opportunity to indicate on the  
9 taxpayer's New Jersey gross income tax return that a portion of the  
10 taxpayer's tax refund or an enclosed contribution shall be deposited in  
11 the Victim and Witness Advocacy Fund established pursuant to section  
12 2 of P.L.1979, c.396 (C.2C:43-3.1), for grants to qualified public  
13 entities and not-for-profit organizations that provide direct services to  
14 crime victims and witnesses and that are eligible to apply for grants  
15 under subsection c. of section 20 of P.L.1991, c.329 (C.52:4B-43.1),  
16 including but not limited to member programs of the New Jersey  
17 Coalition for Battered Women and rape care services and programs.  
18 The Director of the Division of Taxation in the Department of the  
19 Treasury shall provide each taxpayer with the opportunity to indicate  
20 the taxpayer's preference on the tax return to contribute to the fund in  
21 substantially the following manner:

22 "Victim and Witness Advocacy Fund: I wish to contribute \$5 ~,  
23 \$10 ~, other amount \$ ~ to this fund."

24 Any costs incurred by the Division of Taxation for collection or  
25 administration attributable to this act may be deducted from receipts  
26 collected pursuant to this act, as determined by the Director of the  
27 Division of Budget and Accounting.

28 The State Treasurer shall deposit net contributions collected  
29 pursuant to this act into the Victim and Witness Advocacy Fund.

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31 2. This act shall take effect immediately and apply to taxable years  
32 beginning on or after January 1, 1995.

## STATEMENT

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3 This bill provides a checkoff on the gross income tax return to  
4 permit taxpayers to make voluntary contributions to fund services to  
5 victims and witnesses of crimes. The Office of Victim-Witness  
6 Advocacy of the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of  
7 Law and Public Safety uses balances in the Victim and Witness  
8 Advocacy fund to make grants to qualified public entities and  
9 not-for-profit organizations that provide services to victims of crimes.  
10 The services these organizations provide include shelter, food,  
11 clothing, information, counseling and support. The organizations that  
12 have received grants in previous years have included member  
13 organizations of the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women and  
14 organizations providing rape care services and programs.

15 National media attention to cases of spousal violence has  
16 highlighted the need for these services and encouraged more of the  
17 victims of domestic abuse to seek help. The contributions made by  
18 taxpayers to the Victim and Witness Advocacy Fund will assist in the  
19 provision of desperately needed resources.

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24 Provides for a checkoff for taxpayers to make voluntary contributions  
25 on gross income tax returns for crime victims.