

ASSEMBLY, No. 2230

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 27, 1996

By Assemblywoman GILL and Assemblyman BROWN

1 AN ACT concerning voluntary contributions through gross income tax
2 returns to support the activities of WBGO, Newark Public Radio,
3 supplementing chapter 9 of 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. a. 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 be deposited in the
11 WBGO-Newark Public Radio Fund established pursuant to this
12 section. The Director of the Division of Taxation shall provide each
13 taxpayer with the opportunity to indicate the taxpayer's preference on
14 the tax return to contribute to the fund in substantially the following
15 way:

16 "WBGO- Newark Public Radio Fund: I wish to contribute \$5 ~,
17 \$10 ~, other amount \$ ~ to this fund."

18 b. There is established in the Department of the Treasury a special
19 fund to be known as the WBGO - Newark Public Radio Fund. The
20 State Treasurer shall deposit into the fund net contributions collected
21 pursuant to subsection a. of this section. All moneys deposited in the
22 fund shall be annually appropriated to the Department of Commerce
23 and Economic Development for support of this non-commercial
24 public radio broadcasting service in the State.

25 c. Any costs incurred by the Division of Taxation for collection or
26 administration attributable to this section, as determined by the
27 Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department
28 of the Treasury, may be deducted from receipts collected pursuant to
29 subsection a. of this section prior to deposit into the WBGO-Newark
30 Public Radio Fund.

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32 2. This act shall take effect immediately and apply to taxable years
33 beginning on or after January 1, next following enactment.

STATEMENT

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3 This bill creates the WBGO-Newark Public Radio Fund and
4 provides for a tax refund checkoff to appear on State gross income tax
5 returns permitting taxpayers to make voluntary contributions to the
6 fund for the support of this non-commercial public radio broadcasting
7 service in this State. The station was named "Jazz Station of the
8 Year" by Gavin Magazine for 1996. Recently, WBGO Radio has
9 received several first place awards from the New Jersey Associated
10 Press Broadcasters Association, for its coverage and programming of
11 "World Aids Day," the "Papal Visit," the spot news category, "Chess
12 Championship," a best newscast award, a best feature award and a best
13 coverage of a continuing story award for "Newark Schools Takeover."
14 The radio station received State grants for operations in fiscal years
15 1981 through 1992.

16 The bill permits the Division of Taxation to recoup any
17 administrative and maintenance expenses it may incur as a result of the
18 creation of the fund from contributions received.

19 Currently, there are five funds supported by a tax refund checkoff
20 on the State gross income tax return: Endangered and Nongame
21 Species of Wildlife Conservation Fund; the Children's Trust Fund; the
22 Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Fund; the Breast Cancer Research Fund;
23 and the Battleship New Jersey Memorial Fund.

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28 Provides for checkoff for taxpayers to make voluntary contributions
29 on gross income tax returns to support activities of WBGO, Newark
30 Public Radio.