

SENATE, No. 699

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 15, 1996

By Senator LESNIAK

1 AN ACT concerning voluntary contributions through gross income tax
2 returns to support the activities of the New Jersey State Council on
3 the Arts, supplementing chapter 9 of Title 54A of the New Jersey
4 Statutes.

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

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9 1. a. Each taxpayer shall have the opportunity to indicate on the
10 taxpayer's New Jersey gross income tax return that a portion of the
11 taxpayer's tax refund or an enclosed contribution be deposited in the
12 New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fund established pursuant to
13 this section. The Director of the Division of Taxation shall provide
14 each taxpayer with the opportunity to indicate the taxpayer's
15 preference on the tax return to contribute to the fund in substantially
16 the following way:

17 "New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fund: I wish to contribute
18 \$5 ~, \$10 ~, other amount \$ ~ to this fund."

19 b. There is established in the Department of the Treasury a special
20 fund to be known as the New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fund.
21 The State Treasurer shall deposit into the fund net contributions
22 collected pursuant to subsection a. of this section. All moneys
23 deposited in the fund shall be annually appropriated to the New Jersey
24 State Council on the Arts in the Department of State to support the
25 performing and creative arts in this State.

26 c. Any costs incurred by the Division of Taxation for collection or
27 administration attributable to this section, as determined by the
28 Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department
29 of the Treasury, may be deducted from receipts collected pursuant to
30 subsection a. of this section prior to deposit into the New Jersey State
31 Council on the Arts Fund.

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33 2. This act shall take effect immediately and apply to taxable years
34 beginning on or after January 1, 1996.

STATEMENT

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This bill creates the New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fund and provides for a tax refund checkoff to appear on State gross income tax returns permitting taxpayers to make voluntary contributions to the fund for the support of the performing and creative arts in this State.

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

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

Provides for checkoff for taxpayers to make voluntary contributions on gross income tax returns to support activities of New Jersey State Council on the Arts.