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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 1998

CHAPTER: 106

NJSA: 54:10A-15.4

"Taxpayers deficiencies; nonresident investors, et al"

BILL NO: A1730 (Substituted for S674 1st Reprint)

SPONSOR(S):Kramer

DATE INTRODUCED: February 23, 1998

COMMITTEE:

ASSEMBLY: Appropriations

SENATE: ~~~~

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE:

ASSEMBLY: June 29, 1998 **SENATE:** June 29, 1998

DATE OF APPROVAL: September 14, 1998

THE FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL: 1st Reprint Enacted

(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

A1730

SPONSORS STATEMENT: Yes (Begins on page 16 of original bill)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY: Yes **SENATE:** No

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

SPONSORS STATEMENT: Yes (Begins on page 16 of original bill)

(Bill and Sponsors Statement identical to A1730)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY: No

SENATE: Yes

(Identical to Assembly Statement for A1730)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

(Identical to Legislative Fiscal Estimate for A1730)

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext. 102 or refdesk@njstatelib.org

REPORTS: No

Tax Advisory Group, cited in several statements, does not publish their recommendations.

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

[First Reprint] ASSEMBLY, No. 1730

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 23, 1998

Sponsored by: Assemblyman PAUL KRAMER District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by: Senators Inverso and Lesniak

SYNOPSIS

Provides alternate remedy for State taxpayers assessed deficiencies, clarifies State gross income taxation of nonresident hedge fund partners, affects certain State tax penalty provisions.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on June 4, 1998, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/1998)

AN ACT concerning State tax assessments and liabilities, amending 1 2 various sections of statutory law.

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

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- 1. Section 5 of P.L.1981, c.184 (C.54:10A-15.4) is amended to 7 8 read as follows:
- 9 5. a. In case of any underpayment of an installment payment by a 10 taxpayer, there shall be added to the tax for the fiscal or calendar 11 accounting year an amount determined by applying the rate established 12 in this section to the amount of the underpayment for the period of the 13 underpayment.
- 14 b. For purposes of subsection a., the amount of underpayment shall 15 be the excess of:
 - (1) The lesser of the amount of the installment payment which would be required to be paid if all installment payments were equal to 90% of the tax shown on the return for the fiscal or calendar accounting year, or if no return was filed, 90% of the tax for that year, or 100% of the tax shown on the tax return of the taxpayer for the preceding taxable year over
 - (2) The amount, if any, of the installment payment paid on or before the last date prescribed for payment.
 - c. For purposes of subsection a., the period of the underpayment shall run from the date the installment payment was required to be paid to whichever of the following dates is the earlier:
 - (1) The fifteenth day of the fourth month after the close of the fiscal or calendar accounting year.
 - (2) With respect to any portion of the underpayment, the date on which that portion is paid.
 - For purposes of this subsection, a payment of any installment payment shall be considered a payment of any previous underpayment only to the extent that payment exceeds the amount of the installment payment determined under subsection b. (1) for that installment payment.
- 36 d. Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding subsections, the 37 addition to the tax with respect to any underpayment of any installment payment shall not be imposed if the total amount of all 38 39 installment payments made on or before the last date prescribed for the 40 payment of that installment equals or exceeds the amount which would 41 have been required to be paid on or before that date if the total amount 42 of all installment payments were the lesser of (1) or (2) as follows:

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

Assembly AAD committee

Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted June 4, 1998.

- (1) An amount equal to the tax computed at the rates applicable to the current fiscal or calendar accounting year but otherwise on the basis of the facts shown on the return of the taxpayer for, and the law applicable to, the preceding fiscal or calendar accounting year; or
- (2) An amount equal to 90% of the tax for the current fiscal or calendar accounting year computed by placing on an annualized basis the taxable entire net income and entire net worth:
- (a) For the first three months of the current fiscal or calendar accounting year, in the case of the installment payment required to be paid in the fourth month,
- (b) For the first three months or for the first five months of the current fiscal or calendar accounting year, in the case of the installment payment required to be paid in the sixth month,
- (c) For the first six months or for the first eight months of the current fiscal or calendar accounting year, in the case of the installment payment required to be paid in the ninth month,
- (d) For the first nine months or for the first 11 months of the current fiscal or calendar accounting year, in the case of the installment payment required to be paid in the 12th month, and
- (e) For the last three months of the preceding taxable year, in the case of the installment payment required to be paid in the first month of the current fiscal or calendar accounting year.
- e. Any taxpayer who shall fail to pay, or shall underpay by more than 10% of the amount due, any installment payment required pursuant to this act, shall pay, in addition to the tax, interest on the amount of underpayment as provided in the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S. 54:48-1 et seq.

28 (cf: P.L.1987, c.76, s.50)

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- 30 2. Section 19 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-19) is amended to 31 read as follows:
- 32 19. The director may grant a reasonable extension of time for the 33 filing of returns or the payment of tax or both, under such rules and 34 regulations as he shall prescribe, which rules and regulations may require the filing of a tentative return and the payment of an estimated 35 36 tax. If the time for filing the return shall be extended, the payment of 37 the portion of the tax remaining to be paid, if any, shall be postponed 38 to the date fixed by the extension of the time for the filing of the 39 return, but in every such case the corporation shall pay, in addition to 40 the unpaid portion of the tax, interest thereon at the rate as provided 41 in the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1 et seq., from 42 the time when the return originally was required to be filed to the date 43 of actual payment under the extension; provided, that if such unpaid 44 portion of the tax is not paid within the time fixed under the extension, 45 the interest on such unpaid portion shall be computed at the rate as provided in the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1 et 46

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- 1 seq., from the date the tax was originally due to the date of actual
- 2 payment and if the amounts paid up to and including the time of the
- 3 filing of the tentative return total less than the lesser of: 90% of the
- 4 amount due; or for a taxpayer that had a preceding fiscal or calendar
- 5 accounting year of 12 months and filed a return for that year showing
- 6 a liability for tax, an amount equal to the tax computed at the rates
- 7 applicable to the current fiscal or calendar accounting year but
- 8 otherwise on the basis of the facts shown on the return of the taxpayer
- 9 for, and the law applicable to, the preceding fiscal or calendar
- 10 accounting year, the taxpayer shall be liable for a penalty of 5% per
- 11 month or fraction thereof on the amount of underpayment, not to
- 12 <u>exceed 25% of that underpayment,</u> which shall be in addition to the
- 13 interest charges provided above.
- 14 (cf: P.L.1992, c.175, s.20)

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- 3. Section 11 of P.L.1947, c.50 (C.54:10A-19.2) is amended to read as follows:
- 11. <u>a.</u> Any aggrieved taxpayer may, within 90 days after any action
- 19 of the director made pursuant to the provisions of this act, appeal
- 20 therefrom to the tax court in accordance with the provisions of the
- 21 State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S. 54:48-1 et seq.
- b. Any aggrieved taxpayer that has neither protested or appealed
- 23 from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b)
- 24 of R.S.54:49-14, file a claim for refund of the assessment paid.
- 25 (cf: P.L.1983, c.36, s.23)

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- 4. Section 18 of P.L.1973, c.31 (C.54:10D-17) is amended to read as follows:
- 29 18. a. Any aggrieved taxpayer may, within 90 days after any
- 30 decision, order, finding, assessment or action of the director made
- 31 pursuant to the provisions of this act, appeal therefrom to the tax
- 32 court in accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform
- 33 Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1 et seq.
- 34 <u>b. Any aggrieved taxpayer that has neither protested or appealed</u>
- 35 <u>from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b)</u>
- 36 of R.S.54:49-14 file a claim for refund of the assessment paid.
- 37 (cf: P.L.1983, c.36, s.24)

- 39 5. Section 21 of P.L.1973, c.170 (C.54:10E-21) is amended to 40 read as follows:
- 21. <u>a.</u> Any aggrieved taxpayer may, within 90 days after any
- 42 decision, order, finding, assessment or action of the director made
- 43 pursuant to the provisions of this act, appeal therefrom to the tax
- 44 court in accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform
- 45 Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1 et seq.
- b. Any aggrieved taxpayer that has neither protested or appealed

- 1 from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b)
- 2 of R.S.54:49-14, file a claim for refund of the assessment paid.
- 3 (cf: P.L.1983, c.36, s.25)

- 5 6. Section 8 of P.L.1990, c.42 (C.54:15B-8) is amended to read as 6 follows:
- 8. a. (1) If a return required by this act is not filed, or if a return when filed is incorrect or insufficient in the opinion of the director, the amount of tax due shall be determined by the director from the information available.
 - (2) If because of an affiliation of interests between a company subject to tax under this act and any purchaser the gross receipts from sale transactions are not indicative of or representative of market price, the director may at the director's discretion, utilize external indices to establish gross receipts.
 - (3) (a) Notice of a determination pursuant to this subsection shall be given to the company liable for the payment of the tax. Such determination shall finally and irrevocably fix the tax unless the company against which it is assessed, within 30 days after receiving notice of the determination, shall apply to the director for a hearing, or unless the director on the director's own motion shall redetermine the same. After such hearing the director shall give notice of the determination to the company to which the tax is assessed.
 - (b) Any aggrieved taxpayer that has neither protested or appealed from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b) of R.S.54:49-14, file a claim for refund of the assessment paid.
 - b. The certificate of the director to the effect that a tax has not been paid, that a return has not been filed, that a prescribed certificate has not been issued, that information has not been supplied or that inaccurate information has been supplied pursuant to the provisions of this act or rules or regulations adopted hereunder shall be prima facie evidence thereof.
 - c. In addition to the other powers granted to the director in this section, the director is hereby authorized and empowered:
 - (1) To delegate to any officer or employee of the division such powers and duties as the director may deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, and the person or persons to whom such power has been delegated shall possess and may exercise all of said powers and perform all of the duties delegated by the director;
 - (2) To prescribe and distribute all necessary forms and certificates for the implementation of this act; and
- 42 (3) To administer and enforce the tax imposed by this act and to 43 make and adopt such rules and regulations and to require such facts 44 and information to be reported as the director may deem necessary to 45 enforce the provisions of this act.
- d. The tax imposed by this act shall be governed in all respects by

1 the provisions of the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1

- 2 et seq., except only to the extent that a specific provision of this act
- 3 may be in conflict therewith.
- 4 (cf: P.L.1991, c.181, s.5)

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- 6 7. Section 20 of P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-20) is amended to read as follows:
- as follows:

 8 20. (a) In the manner provided in this section the director shall
- 9 refund or credit any tax, penalty or interest erroneously, illegally or
- 10 unconstitutionally collected or paid if application to the director for
- such refund shall be made within four years from the payment thereof.
- 12 Such application may be made by a customer who has actually paid the
- 13 tax. Such application may also be made by a person required to
- 14 collect the tax, who has collected and paid over such tax to the
- 15 director, provided that the application is made within four years of the
- payment to him by the customer, but no actual refund of moneys shall
- be made to such person until [he] the person shall first establish to the
- satisfaction of the director, under such regulations as [he] the director
- may prescribe, that [he] the person has repaid to the customer the
- 20 amount for which the application for refund is made. The director
- 21 may, in lieu of any refund, allow credit on payments due from the 22 applicant.
- 23 (b) A person shall not be entitled to a revision, refund or credit
- 24 under this section of a tax, interest or penalty which had been
- 25 determined to be due pursuant to the provisions of section 19 of
- 26 P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-19) where [he] the person has had a
- 27 hearing or an opportunity for a hearing as provided in said section or
- has failed to [avail himself of] use the remedies therein provided
- 29 <u>unless the person otherwise meets the requirements of subsection (b)</u>
- 30 of R.S.54:49-14. No refund or credit shall be made of a tax, interest
- 31 or penalty paid after a determination by the director made pursuant to
- 32 section 19 of P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-19) unless it be found that
- 33 such determination was erroneous, illegal or unconstitutional or
- 34 otherwise improper, pursuant to law, in which event refund or credit
- 35 shall be made of the tax, interest or penalty found to have been
- 36 overpaid.
- 37 (cf: P.L.1992, c.175, s.32)

- 8. R.S.54:34-13 is amended to read as follows:
- 40 54:34-13. <u>a.</u> Any interested person dissatisfied with the
- 41 appraisement or assessment so made may appeal therefrom to the tax
- 42 court within 90 days after the making and entering of the assessment,
- 43 in accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform Procedure
- 44 Law, R.S.54:48-1 et seq.
- b. Any aggrieved taxpayer that has neither protested or appealed
- 46 from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b)

of R.S.54:49-14, file a claim for refund of the assessment paid.

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2 (cf: P.L.1983, c.36, s.38) 3 4 9. R.S.54:38-10 is amended to read as follows: 54:38-10. <u>a.</u> The tax court on appeal shall have jurisdiction to 5 6 hear and determine all questions in relation to any tax imposed under the provisions of this chapter. Any executor, administrator, trustee, 7 8 person or corporation liable for the payment of any tax imposed by this 9 chapter may appeal to the tax court for a review thereof within 90 10 days of the date of notice assessing the tax complained of, in accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform Procedure 11 12 Law, R.S.54:48-1 et seq. 13 b. Any aggrieved taxpayer that has neither protested or appealed 14 from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b) 15 of R.S.54:49-14, file a claim for refund of the assessment paid. (cf: P.L.1983, c.36, s.39) 16 17 18 10. Section 14 of P.L.1990, c.39 (C.54:40B-14) is amended to 19 read as follows: 20 14. a. Any aggrieved taxpayer may, within 90 days after any 21 decision, order, finding, assessment or action of the director made 22 pursuant to the provisions of this act, appeal therefrom to the tax 23 court in accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform 24 Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1 et seq. 25 b. Any aggrieved executor, administrator, trustee, person or 26 corporation liable for the payment of any tax imposed by this chapter 27 that has neither protested or appealed from an additional assessment 28 of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b) of R.S.54:49-14, file a claim for 29 refund of the assessment paid. 30 c. The appeal provided by this section shall be the exclusive 31 remedy available to any taxpayer for review of a decision of the 32 director in respect of the determination of the liability of the taxpayer 33 for the taxes imposed by this act. 34 (cf: P.L.1990, c.39, s.14) 35 36 11. R.S.54:45-6 is amended to read as follows: 37 54:45-6. Any taxpayer, at any time within four years after the payment of any original or additional tax assessed against [him] the 38 39 taxpayer may file with the director a claim under oath for refund, in 40 such form as the director may prescribe, stating the ground therefor, 41 but no claim for refund shall be required or permitted to be filed with 42 respect to a tax paid after protest has been filed with the director or 43 after proceedings on appeal have been commenced as provided in this 44 subtitle <u>until after the protest or appeal has been finally determined</u>. 45 (cf: P.L.1992, c.175, s.39)

12. R.S.54:49-4 is amended to read as follows:

2 54:49-4. In addition thereto any taxpayer failing to file a return 3 with the director within the time prescribed under the act imposing 4 such tax shall be liable to a late filing penalty of \$100 for each month or fraction thereof that such return is delinquent, plus a penalty of 5% 5 per month or fraction thereof of the **[**total tax liability**]** <u>underpayment</u> 6 not to exceed 25% of such [tax liability] underpayment ¹, except that 7 8 if no return has been filed within 30 days of the date on which the first 9 notice of delinquency in filing the return was sent to the taxpayer, the 10 penalty shall accrue at 5% per month or fraction thereof of the total tax liability not to exceed 25% of such tax liability¹. Unless any part 11 12 of any underpayment of tax required to be shown on a return or report 13 is shown to be due to reasonable cause, there shall be added to the tax 14 an amount equal to 5% of the underpayment.

15 (cf: P.L.1992, c.175, s.2)

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13. R.S.54:49-14 is amended to read as follows:

54:49-14. a. Any taxpayer, at any time within four years after the payment of any original or additional tax assessed against him, unless a shorter limit is fixed by the law imposing the tax, may file with the director a claim under oath for refund, in such form as the director may prescribe, stating the grounds therefor, but no claim for refund shall be required or permitted to be filed with respect to a tax paid, after protest has been filed with the director or after proceedings on appeal have been commenced as provided in this subtitle, until such protest or appeal has been finally determined. The signing of an agreement by the taxpayer and the director extending the period for assessment shall likewise extend the period for filing a claim for refund.

b. No taxpayer shall be precluded from claiming a refund of additional tax assessed solely on the ground that the taxpayer neither protested or appealed from ¹ any part of ¹ the assessment. A taxpayer ¹ that neither protested or appealed from an additional assessment of tax] may, pursuant to this subsection, file a claim for the refund of the assessment ¹ of additional tax if (1) the taxpayer neither protested nor appealed from the assessment, (2) the taxpayer paid the assessment in full within one year after the 1 payment thereof; provided however, that the payment must have been timely made, as provided in the notice of deficiency assessment or by an extended due date as agreed to in writing by the director. The expiration of the period allowed for filing a protest of the assessment, (3) the taxpayer files the claim for the refund within 450 days of the expiration of the period allowed for filing such a protest, and (4) the amount of [a] the refund lead claimed pursuant to this subsection leshall does not exceed the portion amount of the tax assessment

- 1 paid ¹ [during the one-year period preceding the filing of the claim] ¹.
- ¹The time periods provided shall apply solely for purposes of refund
- 3 claims under this subsection and shall be inapplicable with respect to
- 4 any penalty and interest payments that may be due. A refund claim
- 5 shall be filed under oath, in a form as the director may prescribe, and
- 6 shall state the grounds therefor, which grounds shall be limited to
- 7 those issues raised by the deficiency assessment itself and shall not
- 8 <u>include any additional issues with respect to the original assessment of</u>
- 9 tax. The filing of a claim for refund by the taxpayer under this
- 10 <u>subsection shall neither extend or toll the time to request a hearing or</u>
- 11 appeal an additional assessment of tax as otherwise provided by law.
- 12 The denial of a claim for refund shall be an action of the director
- 13 subject to review pursuant to section 54:51A-14 of P.L.1983, c.45.
 - <u>c.</u> Each taxpayer shall file a separate refund claim. A refund claim on behalf of a class is not permitted.
- on behalf of a class is not permitted.

 [c.] d. If a tax is declared to be discriminatory in a final judicial decision from which all appeals have been exhausted, the director may,
- 18 within the director's sole discretion, refund or credit only the
- 19 discriminatory portion of the tax.
- 20 (cf: P.L.1992, c.175, s.5)

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- 14. N.J.S.54A:5-8 is amended to read as follows:
- 54A:5-8. <u>a.</u> Income from sources within this State for a nonresident individual, estate or trust means the income from the categories of gross income enumerated and classified under chapter 5 of this act to the extent that it is earned, received or acquired from
- 27 sources within this State:
 - (1) By reason of ownership or disposition of any interest in real or tangible personal property in this State; or
- 30 (2) In connection with a trade, profession, occupation carried on 31 in this State or for the rendition of personal services performed in this 32 State: or
 - (3) As a distributive share of the income of an unincorporated business, profession, enterprise, undertaking or other activity as the result of work done, services rendered or other business activities conducted in this State except as allocated to another state pursuant to regulations promulgated by the director under this act; or
 - (4) From intangible personal property employed in a trade, profession, occupation or business carried on in this State; or
- 40 (5) As a result of any lottery or wagering transaction in this State 41 other than that excluded from taxation pursuant to N.J.S.54A:6-11; or
- 42 (6) As S corporation income allocated to this State of a New 43 Jersey S corporation.
- 44 <u>b.</u> Income from sources within this State for a nonresident
- individual shall not include income from pensions and annuities as set
- 46 forth in subsection j. of N.J.S.54A:5-1.

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1 c. For purposes of paragraphs (2) through (4) of subsection a. of 2 this section, a nonresident ¹ [individual, estate, trust or partnership] taxpayer¹ shall not be deemed to be carrying on a trade, profession, 3 occupation, business, enterprise, undertaking or other activity in this 4 5 State, or to be rendering personal services in this State, solely as a result of the purchase¹, holding¹ and sale of intangible personal 6 property by the ¹[individual, estate, trust or partnership] trade, 7 profession, occupation, business, enterprise or undertaking¹, to the 8 9 extent that (1) the ¹ [individual's, estate's, trust's or partnership's] ¹ 10 activities related to the intangible personal property are for the account of the [individual, estate, trust or partnership] trade, 11 profession, occupation, business, enterprise, or undertaking and (2) 12 the [individual, estate, trust or partnership] trade, profession, 13 occupation, business, enterprise, or undertaking does not hold the 14 intangible personal property for sale to customers ¹ [in the ordinary 15 course of a trade, profession, occupation, business, enterprise, 16 17 undertaking or other activity 1¹. For the purposes of this subsection 1. intangible personal property shall not include options, other than 18 19 options to purchase or sell intangible personal property]: "intangible 20 personal property" includes, but is not limited to, "commodities", as defined in paragraph (2) of subsection (e), and "securities," as defined 21 22 in paragraph (2) of subsection (c), of section 475 of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. s.475; and "purchase, 23 24 holding and sale of intangible personal property" includes activities 25 incidental thereto giving rise to income, including commitment fees, 26 breakup fees, income from securities lending, and any other incidental 27 activities as prescribed or authorized by the director. The director shall adopt such regulations as the director deems necessary to 28 29 accomplish the purposes of this section¹. 30 (cf: P.L.1993, c.173, s.10)

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15. N.J.S.54A:8-4 is amended to read as follows:

33 54A:8-4. Declarations of estimated tax. (a) Requirement of filing. 34 Every resident and nonresident individual shall make a declaration of 35 [his]the individual's estimated New Jersey personal income tax for 36 each taxable year beginning after June 30, 1976, if [his] the 37 individual's estimated New Jersey personal income tax can reasonably 38 be expected to be more than **[**\$100.00**]** <u>\$400</u> in excess of any credits allowable against [his] the individual's tax, whether or not [he] the 39 40 individual is required to file a federal declaration of estimated tax for 41 such year.

(b) Definition of estimated tax. The term "estimated tax" means the amount which an individual estimates to be [his] the individual's income tax under this act for the taxable year, less the amount which [he] the individual estimates to be the sum of any credits allowable

1 against the tax.

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- 2 (c) Joint declaration of husband and wife. A husband and wife may 3 make a joint declaration of estimated tax as if they were one taxpayer, 4 in which case the liability with respect to the estimated tax shall be joint and several. No joint declaration may be made if husband and 5 wife are separated under a decree of divorce or of separate 6 maintenance, or if they have different taxable years. If a joint 7 8 declaration is made but husband and wife elect to determine their 9 taxes under this act separately, the estimated tax for such year may be treated as the estimated tax of either husband or wife, or may be 10 divided between them, as they may elect. 11
- (d) Time for filing declaration. Beginning in the taxable year 1976 and every taxable year thereafter a declaration of estimated tax of an individual other than a farmer shall be filed on or before April 15 of the taxable year, except that if the requirements of subsection (a) are first met:
 - (1) After April 1 and before June 2 of the taxable year, the declaration shall be filed on or before June 15; or
 - (2) After June 1 and before September 2 of the taxable year the declaration shall be filed on or before September 15; or
 - (3) After September 1 of the taxable year, the declaration shall be filed on or before January 15 of the succeeding year.
 - (e) Declaration of estimated tax by a farmer. A declaration of estimated tax of an individual having an estimated New Jersey income from farming (including oyster farming) for the taxable year which is at least two-thirds of [his]the individual's total estimated New Jersey income for the taxable year may be filed at any time on or before January 15 of the succeeding year, in lieu of the time otherwise prescribed.
 - (f) Declaration of estimated tax of [\$100.00] \$400 or less. A declaration of estimated tax of an individual having a total estimated tax for the taxable year of [\$100.00] \$400 or less may be filed at any time on or before January 15 of the succeeding year under regulations of the director.
 - (g) Amendments of declaration. An individual may amend a declaration under regulations of the director.
 - (h) Return as declaration or amendment. If on or before February 15 of the succeeding taxable year an individual files his return for the taxable year for which the declaration is required, and pays therewith the full amount of the tax shown to be due on the return:
- 41 (1) Such return shall be considered as his declaration if no 42 declaration was required to be filed during the taxable year, but is 43 otherwise required to be filed on or before January 15;
- 44 (2) Such return shall be considered as the amendment permitted by 45 subsection (g) to be filed on or before January 15 if the tax shown on 46 the return is greater than the estimated tax shown in a declaration

1 previously made.

- (i) Fiscal year. This section shall apply to a taxable year other than a calendar year by the substitution of the months of such fiscal year for the corresponding months specified in this section.
- (j) Short taxable year. An individual having a taxable year of less than 12 months shall make a declaration in accordance with regulations of the director.
- (k) Declaration for individual under a disability. The declaration of estimated tax for an individual who is unable to make a declaration by reason of minority or other disability shall be made and filed by [his] the individual's guardian, committee, fiduciary or other person charged with the care of [his] the individual's person or property (other than a receiver in possession of only a part of [his] the individual's property), or by [his] the individual's duly authorized agent.
 - (l) In the taxable year 1976, no declaration shall be required until the lapse of at least one full calendar quarter following enactment of this act.
 - (m) This section shall also apply to an estate or trust taxpayer other than an estate or trust that meets the two year limitation and other criteria of paragraph (2) of subsection (l) of section 6654 of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. s.6654.
- 23 (cf: N.J.S.54A:8-4)

16. N.J.S.54A:9-6 is amended to read as follows:

54A:9-6. Additions to tax and civil penalties. (a) Failure to file tax return. In case of failure to file a tax return under this act on or before the prescribed date (determined with regard to any extension of time for filing), unless it is shown that such failure is due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, there shall be added to the amount required to be shown as tax on such return such amount as is required under the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1 et seq. For this purpose, the amount of tax required to be shown on the return shall be reduced by the amount of any part of the tax which is paid on or before the date prescribed for payment of the tax and by the amount of any credit against the tax which may be claimed upon the return.

- (b) Deficiency due to negligence. If any part of a deficiency is due to negligence or intentional disregard of this act or rules or regulations hereunder (but without intent to defraud), there shall be added to the tax an amount equal to 10% of the deficiency.
- 42 (c) Failure to file declaration or underpayment of estimated tax.
 43 If any taxpayer fails to file a declaration of estimated tax or fails to pay
 44 all or any part of an installment of estimated tax, [he]the taxpayer
 45 shall be deemed to have made an underpayment of estimated tax
 46 except as provided pursuant to subsection (d) of this section. There

- 1 shall be added to the tax for the taxable year an amount at the rate as
- 2 is required under the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1
- 3 et seq., upon the amount of the underpayment for the period of the
- 4 underpayment but not beyond the 15th day of the fourth month
- following the close of the taxable year. The amount of underpayment 5
- 6 shall be the excess of the <u>lesser of: (1) the</u> amount of the installment
- 7 which would be required to be paid if the estimated tax were equal to
- 8 80% of the tax (two-thirds of the tax for farmers referred to in
- 9 subsection (e) of section 54A:8-4) shown on the return for the taxable
- 10 year (or if no return was filed, of the tax for such year), or (2) 100%
- 11 of the tax shown on the tax return of the taxpayer for the preceding
- 12 taxable year; over the amount, if any, of the installment paid on or
- 13 before the last day prescribed for such payment. No underpayment
- 14 shall be deemed to exist with respect to a declaration or installment
- 15 otherwise due on or after the taxpayer's death.
 - (d) Exception to addition for underpayment of estimated tax. The addition to tax under subsection (c) with respect to any underpayment of any installment shall not be imposed if the total amount of all payments of estimated tax made on or before the last date prescribed for the payment of such installment equals or exceeds whichever of the following set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) and subject to paragraph
- 22 (3) is the lesser--

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- (1) The amount which would have been required to be paid on or before such date if the estimated tax were whichever of the following is the least--
- (A) [The] An amount equal to 100% of the tax shown on the return of the [individual] taxpayer for the preceding taxable year. except as provided pursuant to pursuant to paragraph (3) of this subsection, if a return showing a liability for tax was filed by the [individual] taxpayer for the preceding taxable year and such preceding year was a taxable year of 12 months, or
- (B) An amount equal to 100% of the tax computed, except as provided pursuant to pursuant to paragraph (3) of this subsection, at the rates applicable to the taxable year, on the basis of the taxpayer's status with respect to [his] the taxpayer's personal exemptions for the taxable year, but otherwise on the basis of the facts shown on [his] the taxpayer's return for, and the law applicable to, the preceding taxable year, or
- 39 (C) An amount equal to 80% of the tax for the taxable year 40 (two-thirds of the tax for farmers referred to in subsection (e) of section 54A:8-4) computed by placing on an annualized basis the 41 42 income for the months in the taxable year ending before the month in 43 which the installment is required to be paid (or, in the case of a trust 44 or estate, the income for the months ending before the date one month 45 <u>before the month in which the installment is required</u>). For purposes 46 of this subparagraph, the income shall be placed on an annualized basis

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- (i) Multiplying by 12 (or, in the case of a taxable year of less than 12 months, the number of months in the taxable year) the income for the months in the taxable year ending before the month in which the installment is required to be paid (or, in the case of a trust or estate, the income for the months ending before the date one month before the month in which the installment is required),
- 8 (ii) Dividing the resulting amount by the number of months in the 9 taxable year ending before the month in which such installment date 10 falls (or, in the case of a trust or estate, the number of months ending 11 before the date one month before the month in which such installment 12 date falls), and
- (iii) Deducting from such amount the deductions for personal exemptions allowable for the taxable year (such personal exemptions being determined as of the last date prescribed for payment of the installment); or
- 17 (2) An amount equal to 90% of the tax computed, at the rates 18 applicable to the taxable year, on the basis of the actual income for the 19 months in the taxable year ending before the month in which the 20 installment is required to be paid.
- 21 (3) If the taxable gross income shown on the return of the taxpayer 22 for the preceding taxable year exceeds \$150,000 (\$75,000 in the case of a married individual within the meaning of section 7703 of the 23 24 federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. s.7703, filing 25 separately for the taxable year for which the amount of the installment 26 is being determined) subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) of 27 this subsection shall be applied by substituting "110%" for "100%". 28 For purposes of this paragraph, "taxable gross income" means gross 29 income after any allowable deductions under chapters 3 or 3A of the 30 "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act" (C.54A:3-1 et seq and 54A:3A-1 31 et seq); or, in the case of a trust or estate, gross income after any 32 allowable deductions or exemptions, income commissions and amounts distributed or credited to beneficiaries; and "gross income" for a 33 34 nonresident means gross income calculated as if such nonresident were 35 a resident.
 - (e) Deficiency due to fraud. If any part of a deficiency is due to fraud, there shall be added to the tax an amount equal to 50% of the deficiency. This amount shall be in lieu of any other addition to tax imposed by subsection (a) or (b).
- 40 (f) Nonwillful failure to pay withholding tax. If any employer, 41 without intent to evade or defeat any tax imposed by this act or the 42 payment thereof, shall fail to make a return and pay a tax withheld by 43 him at the time required by or under the provisions of section 54A:7-4, 44 such employer shall be liable for such tax and shall pay the same 45 together with interest thereon and the addition to tax provided in 46 subsection (a), and such interest and addition to tax shall not be

charged to or collected from the employee by the employer. The director shall have the same rights and powers for the collection of such tax, interest and addition to tax against such employer as are now prescribed by this act for the collection of tax against an individual taxpayer.

- (g) Willful failure to collect and pay over tax. Any person required to collect, truthfully account for, and pay over the tax imposed by this act who willfully fails to collect such tax or truthfully account for and pay over such tax or willfully attempts in any manner to evade or defeat the tax or the payment thereof, shall, in addition to other penalties provided by law, be liable to a penalty equal to the total amount of the tax evaded, or not collected, or not accounted for and paid over. No addition to tax under subsection (b) or (c) shall be imposed for any offense to which this subsection applies.
- (h) Failure to file certain information returns. In case of each failure to file a statement of a payment to another person, required under authority of subsection (c) of section 54A:8-6 (relating to information at source, including the duplicate statement of tax withheld on wages) on the date prescribed therefor (determined with regard to any extension of time for filing), unless it is shown that such failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect, there shall, upon notice and demand by the director and in the same manner as tax, be paid by the person so failing to file the statement, a penalty of \$2.00 for each statement not so filed, but the total amount imposed on the delinquent person for all such failures during any calendar year shall not exceed \$2,000.00.
- (i) Additional penalty. Any person who with fraudulent intent shall fail to pay, or to deduct or withhold and pay, any tax, or to make, render, sign or certify any return or declaration of estimated tax or to supply any information within the time required by or under this act, shall be liable to penalty of not more than \$5,000.00, in addition to any other amounts required under this act, to be imposed, assessed and collected by the director. The director shall have the power, in his discretion, to waive, reduce or compromise any penalty under this subsection.
- (j) Additions treated as tax. The additions to tax and penalties provided by this section shall be paid upon notice and demand and shall be assessed, collected and paid in the same manner as taxes and any reference in this act to income tax or tax imposed by this act, shall be deemed also to refer to the additions to tax and penalties provided by this section. For purposes of section 54A:9-2, this subsection shall not apply to:
- (1) Any addition to tax under subsection (a) except as to that portion attributable to a deficiency;
- 45 (2) Any addition to tax under subsection (e); and
- 46 (3) Any additional penalty under subsection (i).

A1730 [1R] KRAMER

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- 1 (k) Determination of deficiency. For purposes of subsections (b)
 2 and (c), the amount shown as the tax by the taxpayer upon his return
 3 shall be taken into account in determining the amount of the deficiency
 4 only if such return was filed on or before the last day prescribed for
 5 the filing of such return, determined with regard to any extension of
 6 time for such filing.
- (1) Person defined. For purposes of subsections (f), (g), (h) and (i), the term person or employer includes an individual, corporation or partnership or an officer or employee of any corporation (including a dissolved corporation) or a member or employee of any partnership, who as such officer, employee, or member is under a duty to perform the act in respect of which the violation occurs.

13 (cf: P.L.1987, c.76, s.59)

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17. N.J.S.54A:9-10 is amended to read as follows

54A:9-10. (a) Appeal to tax court. Any aggrieved taxpayer may, within 90 days after any decision, order, finding, assessment or action of the Director of the Division of Taxation made pursuant to the provisions of this act, appeal therefrom to the tax court in accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S. 54:48-1 et seq.

- (b) Any aggrieved taxpayer that has neither protested or appealed from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b) of R.S.54:49-14, file a claim for refund of the assessment paid.
- (c) Appeal exclusive remedy of taxpayer. The appeal provided by this section shall be the exclusive remedy available to any taxpayer for review of a decision of the director in respect of the determination of the liability of the taxpayer for the taxes imposed by this act.
- [(c)](d) Credit, refund or abatement after review. If the amount of a deficiency determined by the director is disallowed in whole or in part, the amount so disallowed shall be credited or refunded to the taxpayer, without the making of claim therefor, or, if payment has not been made, shall be abated.
- 34 (d) (e) Date of finality of director's decision. A decision of the 35 director shall become final upon the expiration of the period specified in subsection (a) for filing a complaint with the tax court, if no such 36 complaint has been filed within such time, or if such complaint has 37 38 been duly made, upon expiration of the time for all further appeals, or 39 upon the rendering by the director of a decision in accordance with 40 the mandate of the tax court or the courts on appeal. Notwithstanding the foregoing, for the purpose of forming a complaint, the decision of 41 42 the director shall be deemed final on the date the notice of decision is 43 sent by mail to the taxpayer.
- 44 (cf: P.L.1983, c.36, s.48)

A1730 [1R] KRAMER

- 1 18. This act shall take effect immediately and apply to return
- 2 periods beginning on or after January 1 next following enactment;
- 3 provided however, that section 14 shall apply to taxable years ending
- 4 after enactment.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1730

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 23, 1998

Sponsored by: Assemblyman PAUL KRAMER District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Provides alternate remedy for State taxpayers assessed deficiencies, clarifies State gross income taxation of nonresident hedge fund partners, affects certain State tax penalty provisions.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning State tax assessments and liabilities, amending various sections of statutory law.

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

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- 7 1. Section 5 of P.L.1981, c.184 (C.54:10A-15.4) is amended to 8 read as follows:
- 5. a. In case of any underpayment of an installment payment by a taxpayer, there shall be added to the tax for the fiscal or calendar accounting year an amount determined by applying the rate established in this section to the amount of the underpayment for the period of the underpayment.
- b. For purposes of subsection a., the amount of underpayment shall be the excess of:
- (1) The <u>lesser of the</u> amount of the installment payment which would be required to be paid if all installment payments were equal to 90% of the tax shown on the return for the fiscal or calendar accounting year, or if no return was filed, 90% of the tax for that year, or 100% of the tax shown on the tax return of the taxpayer for the preceding taxable year over
- 22 (2) The amount, if any, of the installment payment paid on or 23 before the last date prescribed for payment.
 - c. For purposes of subsection a., the period of the underpayment shall run from the date the installment payment was required to be paid to whichever of the following dates is the earlier:
 - (1) The fifteenth day of the fourth month after the close of the fiscal or calendar accounting year.
 - (2) With respect to any portion of the underpayment, the date on which that portion is paid.
 - For purposes of this subsection, a payment of any installment payment shall be considered a payment of any previous underpayment only to the extent that payment exceeds the amount of the installment payment determined under subsection b. (1) for that installment payment.
- d. Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding subsections, the addition to the tax with respect to any underpayment of any installment payment shall not be imposed if the total amount of all installment payments made on or before the last date prescribed for the payment of that installment equals or exceeds the amount which would have been required to be paid on or before that date if the total amount of all installment payments were the lesser of (1) or (2) as follows:
- 43 (1) An amount equal to the tax computed at the rates applicable to

(1) An amount equal to the tax computed at the rates applicable to

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

the current fiscal or calendar accounting year but otherwise on the basis of the facts shown on the return of the taxpayer for, and the law applicable to, the preceding fiscal or calendar accounting year; or

- (2) An amount equal to 90% of the tax for the current fiscal or calendar accounting year computed by placing on an annualized basis the taxable entire net income and entire net worth:
- (a) For the first three months of the current fiscal or calendar accounting year, in the case of the installment payment required to be paid in the fourth month,
- (b) For the first three months or for the first five months of the current fiscal or calendar accounting year, in the case of the installment payment required to be paid in the sixth month,
- (c) For the first six months or for the first eight months of the current fiscal or calendar accounting year, in the case of the installment payment required to be paid in the ninth month,
- (d) For the first nine months or for the first 11 months of the current fiscal or calendar accounting year, in the case of the installment payment required to be paid in the 12th month, and
- (e) For the last three months of the preceding taxable year, in the case of the installment payment required to be paid in the first month of the current fiscal or calendar accounting year.
- e. Any taxpayer who shall fail to pay, or shall underpay by more than 10% of the amount due, any installment payment required pursuant to this act, shall pay, in addition to the tax, interest on the amount of underpayment as provided in the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S. 54:48-1 et seq.

27 (cf: P.L.1987, c.76, s.50)

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- 29 2. Section 19 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-19) is amended to 30 read as follows:
- 31 19. The director may grant a reasonable extension of time for the 32 filing of returns or the payment of tax or both, under such rules and 33 regulations as he shall prescribe, which rules and regulations may 34 require the filing of a tentative return and the payment of an estimated tax. If the time for filing the return shall be extended, the payment of 35 36 the portion of the tax remaining to be paid, if any, shall be postponed 37 to the date fixed by the extension of the time for the filing of the 38 return, but in every such case the corporation shall pay, in addition to 39 the unpaid portion of the tax, interest thereon at the rate as provided 40 in the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1 et seq., from 41 the time when the return originally was required to be filed to the date 42 of actual payment under the extension; provided, that if such unpaid 43 portion of the tax is not paid within the time fixed under the extension, 44 the interest on such unpaid portion shall be computed at the rate as 45 provided in the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1 et seq., from the date the tax was originally due to the date of actual 46

- 1 payment and if the amounts paid up to and including the time of the
- 2 filing of the tentative return total less than the lesser of: 90% of the
- 3 amount due; or for a taxpayer that had a preceding fiscal or calendar
- 4 accounting year of 12 months and filed a return for that year showing
- 5 a liability for tax, an amount equal to the tax computed at the rates
- 6 applicable to the current fiscal or calendar accounting year but
- 7 otherwise on the basis of the facts shown on the return of the taxpayer
- 8 for, and the law applicable to, the preceding fiscal or calendar
- 9 accounting year, the taxpayer shall be liable for a penalty of 5% per
- 10 month or fraction thereof on the amount of underpayment, not to
- 11 <u>exceed 25% of that underpayment,</u> which shall be in addition to the
- 12 interest charges provided above.
- 13 (cf: P.L.1992, c.175, s.20)

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- 3. Section 11 of P.L.1947, c.50 (C.54:10A-19.2) is amended to read as follows:
- 17 11. <u>a.</u> Any aggrieved taxpayer may, within 90 days after any action
- of the director made pursuant to the provisions of this act, appeal
- 19 therefrom to the tax court in accordance with the provisions of the
- 20 State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S. 54:48-1 et seq.
- b. Any aggrieved taxpayer that has neither protested or appealed
- 22 <u>from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b)</u>
- 23 of R.S.54:49-14, file a claim for refund of the assessment paid.
- 24 (cf: P.L.1983, c.36, s.23)

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- 4. Section 18 of P.L.1973, c.31 (C.54:10D-17) is amended to read as follows:
- 28 18. a. Any aggrieved taxpayer may, within 90 days after any
- 29 decision, order, finding, assessment or action of the director made
- 30 pursuant to the provisions of this act, appeal therefrom to the tax
- 31 court in accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform
- 32 Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1 et seq.
- b. Any aggrieved taxpayer that has neither protested or appealed
- 34 <u>from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b)</u>
- 35 of R.S.54:49-14 file a claim for refund of the assessment paid.
- 36 (cf: P.L.1983, c.36, s.24)

- 38 5. Section 21 of P.L.1973, c.170 (C.54:10E-21) is amended to read as follows:
- 40 21. a. Any aggrieved taxpayer may, within 90 days after any
- 41 decision, order, finding, assessment or action of the director made
- 42 pursuant to the provisions of this act, appeal therefrom to the tax
- 43 court in accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform
- 44 Procedure Law, R.S. 54:48-1 et seq.
- b. Any aggrieved taxpayer that has neither protested or appealed
- 46 from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b)

1 of R.S.54:49-14, file a claim for refund of the assessment paid.

2 (cf: P.L.1983, c.36, s.25)

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- 4 6. Section 8 of P.L.1990, c.42 (C.54:15B-8) is amended to read as follows:
- 6 8. a. (1) If a return required by this act is not filed, or if a return when filed is incorrect or insufficient in the opinion of the director, the amount of tax due shall be determined by the director from the information available.
 - (2) If because of an affiliation of interests between a company subject to tax under this act and any purchaser the gross receipts from sale transactions are not indicative of or representative of market price, the director may at the director's discretion, utilize external indices to establish gross receipts.
 - (3) (a) Notice of a determination pursuant to this subsection shall be given to the company liable for the payment of the tax. Such determination shall finally and irrevocably fix the tax unless the company against which it is assessed, within 30 days after receiving notice of the determination, shall apply to the director for a hearing, or unless the director on the director's own motion shall redetermine the same. After such hearing the director shall give notice of the determination to the company to which the tax is assessed.
 - (b) Any aggrieved taxpayer that has neither protested or appealed from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b) of R.S.54:49-14, file a claim for refund of the assessment paid.
 - b. The certificate of the director to the effect that a tax has not been paid, that a return has not been filed, that a prescribed certificate has not been issued, that information has not been supplied or that inaccurate information has been supplied pursuant to the provisions of this act or rules or regulations adopted hereunder shall be prima facie evidence thereof.
 - c. In addition to the other powers granted to the director in this section, the director is hereby authorized and empowered:
 - (1) To delegate to any officer or employee of the division such powers and duties as the director may deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, and the person or persons to whom such power has been delegated shall possess and may exercise all of said powers and perform all of the duties delegated by the director;
 - (2) To prescribe and distribute all necessary forms and certificates for the implementation of this act; and
- (3) To administer and enforce the tax imposed by this act and to 42 43 make and adopt such rules and regulations and to require such facts 44 and information to be reported as the director may deem necessary to 45 enforce the provisions of this act.
- 46 d. The tax imposed by this act shall be governed in all respects by

1 the provisions of the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1 2 et seq., except only to the extent that a specific provision of this act 3 may be in conflict therewith. 4 (cf: P.L.1991, c.181, s.5) 5 6 7. Section 20 of P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-20) is amended to read 7 as follows: 8 20. (a) In the manner provided in this section the director shall 9 refund or credit any tax, penalty or interest erroneously, illegally or 10 unconstitutionally collected or paid if application to the director for such refund shall be made within four years from the payment thereof. 11

tax. Such application may also be made by a person required to collect the tax, who has collected and paid over such tax to the

director, provided that the application is made within four years of the

Such application may be made by a customer who has actually paid the

16 payment to him by the customer, but no actual refund of moneys shall

be made to such person until [he] the person shall first establish to the

satisfaction of the director, under such regulations as [he] the director

may prescribe, that [he] the person has repaid to the customer the amount for which the application for refund is made. The director

amount for which the application for refund is made. The director may, in lieu of any refund, allow credit on payments due from the

22 applicant.

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(b) A person shall not be entitled to a revision, refund or credit 23 24 under this section of a tax, interest or penalty which had been 25 determined to be due pursuant to the provisions of section 19 of 26 P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-19) where [he] the person has had a 27 hearing or an opportunity for a hearing as provided in said section or 28 has failed to [avail himself of] use the remedies therein provided 29 unless the person otherwise meets the requirements of subsection (b) of R.S.54:49-14. No refund or credit shall be made of a tax, interest 30 31 or penalty paid after a determination by the director made pursuant to 32 section 19 of P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-19) unless it be found that 33 such determination was erroneous, illegal or unconstitutional or 34 otherwise improper, pursuant to law, in which event refund or credit 35 shall be made of the tax, interest or penalty found to have been 36 overpaid.

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(cf: P.L.1992, c.175, s.32)

8. R.S.54:34-13 is amended to read as follows:

54:34-13. <u>a.</u> Any interested person dissatisfied with the appraisement or assessment so made may appeal therefrom to the tax court within 90 days after the making and entering of the assessment, in accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1 et seq.

b. Any aggrieved taxpayer that has neither protested or appealed
 from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b)

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(cf: P.L.1992, c.175, s.39)

of R.S.54:49-14, file a claim for refund of the assessment paid. 2 (cf: P.L.1983, c.36, s.38) 3 4 9. R.S.54:38-10 is amended to read as follows: 54:38-10. <u>a.</u> The tax court on appeal shall have jurisdiction to 5 6 hear and determine all questions in relation to any tax imposed under the provisions of this chapter. Any executor, administrator, trustee, 7 8 person or corporation liable for the payment of any tax imposed by this 9 chapter may appeal to the tax court for a review thereof within 90 10 days of the date of notice assessing the tax complained of, in accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform Procedure 11 12 Law, R.S.54:48-1 et seq. 13 b. Any aggrieved taxpayer that has neither protested or appealed 14 from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b) 15 of R.S.54:49-14, file a claim for refund of the assessment paid. (cf: P.L.1983, c.36, s.39) 16 17 10. Section 14 of P.L.1990, c.39 (C.54:40B-14) is amended to 18 19 read as follows: 20 14. a. Any aggrieved taxpayer may, within 90 days after any 21 decision, order, finding, assessment or action of the director made 22 pursuant to the provisions of this act, appeal therefrom to the tax 23 court in accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform 24 Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1 et seq. 25 b. Any aggrieved executor, administrator, trustee, person or 26 corporation liable for the payment of any tax imposed by this chapter 27 that has neither protested or appealed from an additional assessment 28 of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b) of R.S.54:49-14, file a claim for 29 refund of the assessment paid. 30 c. The appeal provided by this section shall be the exclusive 31 remedy available to any taxpayer for review of a decision of the 32 director in respect of the determination of the liability of the taxpayer 33 for the taxes imposed by this act. 34 (cf: P.L.1990, c.39, s.14) 35 36 11. R.S.54:45-6 is amended to read as follows: 37 54:45-6. Any taxpayer, at any time within four years after the payment of any original or additional tax assessed against [him] the 38 39 taxpayer may file with the director a claim under oath for refund, in 40 such form as the director may prescribe, stating the ground therefor, 41 but no claim for refund shall be required or permitted to be filed with 42 respect to a tax paid after protest has been filed with the director or 43 after proceedings on appeal have been commenced as provided in this 44 subtitle <u>until after the protest or appeal has been finally determined</u>.

1 12. R.S.54:49-4 is amended to read as follows:

2 54:49-4. In addition thereto any taxpayer failing to file a return 3 with the director within the time prescribed under the act imposing 4 such tax shall be liable to a late filing penalty of \$100 for each month or fraction thereof that such return is delinquent, plus a penalty of 5% 5 per month or fraction thereof of the **[**total tax liability**]** <u>underpayment</u> 6 7 not to exceed 25% of such [tax liability] <u>underpayment</u>. Unless any 8 part of any underpayment of tax required to be shown on a return or 9 report is shown to be due to reasonable cause, there shall be added to 10 the tax an amount equal to 5% of the underpayment.

11 (cf: P.L.1992, c.175, s.2)

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13. R.S.54:49-14 is amended to read as follows:

54:49-14. a. Any taxpayer, at any time within four years after the payment of any original or additional tax assessed against him, unless a shorter limit is fixed by the law imposing the tax, may file with the director a claim under oath for refund, in such form as the director may prescribe, stating the grounds therefor, but no claim for refund shall be required or permitted to be filed with respect to a tax paid, after protest has been filed with the director or after proceedings on appeal have been commenced as provided in this subtitle, until such protest or appeal has been finally determined. The signing of an agreement by the taxpayer and the director extending the period for assessment shall likewise extend the period for filing a claim for refund.

26 b. No taxpayer shall be precluded from claiming a refund of 27 additional tax assessed solely on the ground that the taxpayer neither 28 protested or appealed from the assessment. A taxpayer that neither 29 protested or appealed from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to this subsection, file a claim for the refund of the 30 31 assessment within one year after the payment thereof; provided 32 however, that the payment must have been timely made, as provided 33 in the notice of deficiency assessment or by an extended due date as 34 agreed to in writing by the director. The amount of a refund made 35 pursuant to this subsection shall not exceed the portion of the tax paid 36 during the one-year period preceding the filing of the claim. A refund claim shall be filed under oath, in a form as the director may prescribe, 37 38 and shall state the grounds therefor, which grounds shall be limited to 39 those issues raised by the deficiency assessment itself and shall not 40 include any additional issues with respect to the original assessment of tax. The filing of a claim for refund by the taxpayer under this 41 42 subsection shall neither extend or toll the time to request a hearing or 43 appeal an additional assessment of tax as otherwise provided by law. 44 The denial of a claim for refund shall be an action of the director 45 subject to review pursuant to section 54:51A-14 of P.L.1983, c.45. 46 c. Each taxpayer shall file a separate refund claim. A refund claim 1 on behalf of a class is not permitted.

[c.] d. If a tax is declared to be discriminatory in a final judicial decision from which all appeals have been exhausted, the director may, within the director's sole discretion, refund or credit only the discriminatory portion of the tax.

6 (cf: P.L.1992, c.175, s.5)

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- 8 14. N.J.S.54A:5-8 is amended to read as follows:
- 9 54A:5-8. <u>a.</u> Income from sources within this State for a nonresident individual, estate or trust means the income from the categories of gross income enumerated and classified under chapter 5 of this act to the extent that it is earned, received or acquired from sources within this State:
 - (1) By reason of ownership or disposition of any interest in real or tangible personal property in this State; or
- 16 (2) In connection with a trade, profession, occupation carried on 17 in this State or for the rendition of personal services performed in this 18 State; or
 - (3) As a distributive share of the income of an unincorporated business, profession, enterprise, undertaking or other activity as the result of work done, services rendered or other business activities conducted in this State except as allocated to another state pursuant to regulations promulgated by the director under this act; or
 - (4) From intangible personal property employed in a trade, profession, occupation or business carried on in this State; or
 - (5) As a result of any lottery or wagering transaction in this State other than that excluded from taxation pursuant to N.J.S.54A:6-11; or
 - (6) As S corporation income allocated to this State of a New Jersey S corporation.
 - <u>b.</u> Income from sources within this State for a nonresident individual shall not include income from pensions and annuities as set forth in subsection j. of N.J.S.54A:5-1.
 - c. For purposes of paragraphs (2) through (4) of subsection a. of this section, a nonresident individual, estate, trust or partnership shall
- 35 not be deemed to be carrying on a trade, profession, occupation,
- 36 <u>business</u>, enterprise, undertaking or other activity in this State, or to
- 37 <u>be rendering personal services in this State, solely as a result of the</u>
- 38 purchase and sale of intangible personal property by the individual,
- estate, trust or partnership, to the extent that (1) the individual's,
 estate's, trust's or partnership's activities related to the intangible
- 41 personal property are for the account of the individual, estate, trust or
- 42 partnership and (2) the individual, estate, trust or partnership does not
- 43 hold the intangible personal property for sale to customers in the
- 44 ordinary course of a trade, profession, occupation, business,
- 45 enterprise, undertaking or other activity. For the purposes of this
- 46 <u>subsection</u>, intangible personal property shall not include options,

1 other than options to purchase or sell intangible personal property.

2 (cf: P.L.1993, c.173, s.10)

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- 15. N.J.S.54A:8-4 is amended to read as follows:
- 5 54A:8-4. Declarations of estimated tax. (a) Requirement of filing.
- 6 Every resident and nonresident individual shall make a declaration of
- 7 [his]the individual's estimated New Jersey personal income tax for
- 8 each taxable year beginning after June 30, 1976, if [his] the
- 9 <u>individual's</u> estimated New Jersey personal income tax can reasonably
- be expected to be more than **[**\$100.00**]** <u>\$400</u> in excess of any credits
- allowable against [his] the individual's tax, whether or not [he] the
- 12 <u>individual</u> is required to file a federal declaration of estimated tax for
- 13 such year.
- 14 (b) Definition of estimated tax. The term "estimated tax" means
- the amount which an individual estimates to be [his] the individual's
- 16 income tax under this act for the taxable year, less the amount which
- 17 [he] the individual estimates to be the sum of any credits allowable
- 18 against the tax.

- (c) Joint declaration of husband and wife. A husband and wife may
- 20 make a joint declaration of estimated tax as if they were one taxpayer,
- 21 in which case the liability with respect to the estimated tax shall be
- 22 joint and several. No joint declaration may be made if husband and
- 23 wife are separated under a decree of divorce or of separate
- 24 maintenance, or if they have different taxable years. If a joint
- 25 declaration is made but husband and wife elect to determine their
- 26 taxes under this act separately, the estimated tax for such year may be
- 27 treated as the estimated tax of either husband or wife, or may be
- 28 divided between them, as they may elect.
- 29 (d) Time for filing declaration. Beginning in the taxable year 1976
- 30 and every taxable year thereafter a declaration of estimated tax of an
- 31 individual other than a farmer shall be filed on or before April 15 of
- 32 the taxable year, except that if the requirements of subsection (a) are
- 33 first met:
- 34 (1) After April 1 and before June 2 of the taxable year, the
- 35 declaration shall be filed on or before June 15; or
- 36 (2) After June 1 and before September 2 of the taxable year the
- 37 declaration shall be filed on or before September 15; or
- 38 (3) After September 1 of the taxable year, the declaration shall be
- 39 filed on or before January 15 of the succeeding year.
- 40 (e) Declaration of estimated tax by a farmer. A declaration of
- 41 estimated tax of an individual having an estimated New Jersey income
- 42 from farming (including oyster farming) for the taxable year which is
- 43 at least two-thirds of [his]the individual's total estimated New Jersey
- 44 income for the taxable year may be filed at any time on or before
- 45 January 15 of the succeeding year, in lieu of the time otherwise
- 46 prescribed.

- 1 (f) Declaration of estimated tax of [\$100.00] \$400 or less. A
 2 declaration of estimated tax of an individual having a total estimated
 3 tax for the taxable year of [\$100.00] \$400 or less may be filed at any
 4 time on or before January 15 of the succeeding year under regulations
 5 of the director.
 - (g) Amendments of declaration. An individual may amend a declaration under regulations of the director.
- 8 (h) Return as declaration or amendment. If on or before February
 9 15 of the succeeding taxable year an individual files his return for the
 10 taxable year for which the declaration is required, and pays therewith
 11 the full amount of the tax shown to be due on the return:
 - (1) Such return shall be considered as his declaration if no declaration was required to be filed during the taxable year, but is otherwise required to be filed on or before January 15;
 - (2) Such return shall be considered as the amendment permitted by subsection (g) to be filed on or before January 15 if the tax shown on the return is greater than the estimated tax shown in a declaration previously made.
 - (i) Fiscal year. This section shall apply to a taxable year other than a calendar year by the substitution of the months of such fiscal year for the corresponding months specified in this section.
 - (j) Short taxable year. An individual having a taxable year of less than 12 months shall make a declaration in accordance with regulations of the director.
 - (k) Declaration for individual under a disability. The declaration of estimated tax for an individual who is unable to make a declaration by reason of minority or other disability shall be made and filed by [his] the individual's guardian, committee, fiduciary or other person charged with the care of [his] the individual's person or property (other than a receiver in possession of only a part of [his] the individual's property), or by [his] the individual's duly authorized agent.
- 33 (l) In the taxable year 1976, no declaration shall be required until 34 the lapse of at least one full calendar quarter following enactment of 35 this act.
- (m) This section shall also apply to an estate or trust taxpayer
 other than an estate or trust that meets the two year limitation and
 other criteria of paragraph (2) of subsection (l) of section 6654 of the
 federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. s.6654.

40 (cf: N.J.S.54A:8-4)

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- 42 16. N.J.S.54A:9-6 is amended to read as follows:
- 54A:9-6. Additions to tax and civil penalties. (a) Failure to file tax return. In case of failure to file a tax return under this act on or before the prescribed date (determined with regard to any extension of time

46 for filing), unless it is shown that such failure is due to reasonable

- cause and not due to willful neglect, there shall be added to the 1 2 amount required to be shown as tax on such return such amount as is 3 required under the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1 et 4 seq. For this purpose, the amount of tax required to be shown on the return shall be reduced by the amount of any part of the tax which is 5 6 paid on or before the date prescribed for payment of the tax and by the 7 amount of any credit against the tax which may be claimed upon the 8 return.
 - (b) Deficiency due to negligence. If any part of a deficiency is due to negligence or intentional disregard of this act or rules or regulations hereunder (but without intent to defraud), there shall be added to the tax an amount equal to 10% of the deficiency.

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- 13 (c) Failure to file declaration or underpayment of estimated tax. 14 If any taxpayer fails to file a declaration of estimated tax or fails to pay 15 all or any part of an installment of estimated tax, [he]the taxpayer shall be deemed to have made an underpayment of estimated tax 16 except as provided pursuant to subsection (d) of this section. There 17 18 shall be added to the tax for the taxable year an amount at the rate as 19 is required under the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1 20 et seq., upon the amount of the underpayment for the period of the 21 underpayment but not beyond the 15th day of the fourth month 22 following the close of the taxable year. The amount of underpayment 23 shall be the excess of the <u>lesser of: (1) the</u> amount of the installment 24 which would be required to be paid if the estimated tax were equal to 25 80% of the tax (two-thirds of the tax for farmers referred to in subsection (e) of section 54A:8-4) shown on the return for the taxable 26 year (or if no return was filed, of the tax for such year), or (2) 100% 27 28 of the tax shown on the tax return of the taxpayer for the preceding 29 taxable year; over the amount, if any, of the installment paid on or 30 before the last day prescribed for such payment. No underpayment 31 shall be deemed to exist with respect to a declaration or installment 32 otherwise due on or after the taxpayer's death.
 - (d) Exception to addition for underpayment of estimated tax. The addition to tax under subsection (c) with respect to any underpayment of any installment shall not be imposed if the total amount of all payments of estimated tax made on or before the last date prescribed for the payment of such installment equals or exceeds whichever of the following set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) and subject to paragraph (3) is the lesser--
- 40 (1) The amount which would have been required to be paid on or 41 before such date if the estimated tax were whichever of the following 42 is the least--
- (A) [The] An amount equal to 100% of the tax shown on the return of the [individual] taxpayer for the preceding taxable year, except as provided pursuant to pursuant to paragraph (3) of this subsection, if a return showing a liability for tax was filed by the

- 1 [individual] taxpayer for the preceding taxable year and such 2 preceding year was a taxable year of 12 months, or
- 3 (B) An amount equal to 100% of the tax computed, except as
 4 provided pursuant to pursuant to paragraph (3) of this subsection, at
 5 the rates applicable to the taxable year, on the basis of the taxpayer's
 6 status with respect to [his] the taxpayer's personal exemptions for the
 7 taxable year, but otherwise on the basis of the facts shown on [his]
 8 the taxpayer's return for, and the law applicable to, the preceding
 9 taxable year, or
- 10 (C) An amount equal to 80% of the tax for the taxable year 11 (two-thirds of the tax for farmers referred to in subsection (e) of 12 section 54A:8-4) computed by placing on an annualized basis the 13 income for the months in the taxable year ending before the month in 14 which the installment is required to be paid (or, in the case of a trust 15 or estate, the income for the months ending before the date one month before the month in which the installment is required). For purposes 16 17 of this subparagraph, the income shall be placed on an annualized basis 18
 - (i) Multiplying by 12 (or, in the case of a taxable year of less than 12 months, the number of months in the taxable year) the income for the months in the taxable year ending before the month in which the installment is required to be paid (or, in the case of a trust or estate, the income for the months ending before the date one month before the month in which the installment is required),

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- (ii) Dividing the resulting amount by the number of months in the taxable year ending before the month in which such installment date falls (or, in the case of a trust or estate, the number of months ending before the date one month before the month in which such installment date falls), and
- (iii) Deducting from such amount the deductions for personal exemptions allowable for the taxable year (such personal exemptions being determined as of the last date prescribed for payment of the installment); or
 - (2) An amount equal to 90% of the tax computed, at the rates applicable to the taxable year, on the basis of the actual income for the months in the taxable year ending before the month in which the installment is required to be paid.
- 38 (3) If the taxable gross income shown on the return of the taxpayer 39 for the preceding taxable year exceeds \$150,000 (\$75,000 in the case 40 of a married individual within the meaning of section 7703 of the 41 federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. s.7703, filing separately for the taxable year for which the amount of the installment 42 43 is being determined) subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) of 44 this subsection shall be applied by substituting "110%" for "100%". 45 For purposes of this paragraph, "taxable gross income" means gross
- 46 income after any allowable deductions under chapters 3 or 3A of the

- 1 "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act" (C.54A:3-1 et seq and 54A:3A-
- 2 1 et seq); or, in the case of a trust or estate, gross income after any
- 3 <u>allowable deductions or exemptions, income commissions and amounts</u>
- 4 distributed or credited to beneficiaries; and "gross income" for a
- 5 nonresident means gross income calculated as if such nonresident were
- 6 <u>a resident.</u>

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- 7 (e) Deficiency due to fraud. If any part of a deficiency is due to 8 fraud, there shall be added to the tax an amount equal to 50% of the 9 deficiency. This amount shall be in lieu of any other addition to tax 10 imposed by subsection (a) or (b).
- 11 (f) Nonwillful failure to pay withholding tax. If any employer, 12 without intent to evade or defeat any tax imposed by this act or the 13 payment thereof, shall fail to make a return and pay a tax withheld by 14 him at the time required by or under the provisions of section 54A:7-4, 15 such employer shall be liable for such tax and shall pay the same together with interest thereon and the addition to tax provided in 16 subsection (a), and such interest and addition to tax shall not be 17 charged to or collected from the employee by the employer. The 18 19 director shall have the same rights and powers for the collection of 20 such tax, interest and addition to tax against such employer as are now 21 prescribed by this act for the collection of tax against an individual 22 taxpayer.
 - (g) Willful failure to collect and pay over tax. Any person required to collect, truthfully account for, and pay over the tax imposed by this act who willfully fails to collect such tax or truthfully account for and pay over such tax or willfully attempts in any manner to evade or defeat the tax or the payment thereof, shall, in addition to other penalties provided by law, be liable to a penalty equal to the total amount of the tax evaded, or not collected, or not accounted for and paid over. No addition to tax under subsection (b) or (c) shall be imposed for any offense to which this subsection applies.
- 32 (h) Failure to file certain information returns. In case of each 33 failure to file a statement of a payment to another person, required 34 under authority of subsection (c) of section 54A:8-6 (relating to information at source, including the duplicate statement of tax 35 withheld on wages) on the date prescribed therefor (determined with 36 37 regard to any extension of time for filing), unless it is shown that such 38 failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect, there shall, 39 upon notice and demand by the director and in the same manner as tax, 40 be paid by the person so failing to file the statement, a penalty of \$2.00 41 for each statement not so filed, but the total amount imposed on the 42 delinquent person for all such failures during any calendar year shall 43 not exceed \$2,000.00.
- 44 (i) Additional penalty. Any person who with fraudulent intent shall 45 fail to pay, or to deduct or withhold and pay, any tax, or to make, 46 render, sign or certify any return or declaration of estimated tax or to

- supply any information within the time required by or under this act,
- 2 shall be liable to penalty of not more than \$5,000.00, in addition to any
- 3 other amounts required under this act, to be imposed, assessed and
- 4 collected by the director. The director shall have the power, in his
- 5 discretion, to waive, reduce or compromise any penalty under this
- 6 subsection.
- 7 (j) Additions treated as tax. The additions to tax and penalties 8 provided by this section shall be paid upon notice and demand and 9 shall be assessed, collected and paid in the same manner as taxes and 10 any reference in this act to income tax or tax imposed by this act, shall 11 be deemed also to refer to the additions to tax and penalties provided 12 by this section. For purposes of section 54A:9-2, this subsection shall
- 13 not apply to:

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- (1) Any addition to tax under subsection (a) except as to that portion attributable to a deficiency;
 - (2) Any addition to tax under subsection (e); and
 - (3) Any additional penalty under subsection (i).
- 18 (k) Determination of deficiency. For purposes of subsections (b)
 19 and (c), the amount shown as the tax by the taxpayer upon his return
 20 shall be taken into account in determining the amount of the deficiency
 21 only if such return was filed on or before the last day prescribed for
 22 the filing of such return, determined with regard to any extension of
- 23 time for such filing.
 - (l) Person defined. For purposes of subsections (f), (g), (h) and (i), the term person or employer includes an individual, corporation or partnership or an officer or employee of any corporation (including a dissolved corporation) or a member or employee of any partnership, who as such officer, employee, or member is under a duty to perform the act in respect of which the violation occurs.
- 30 (cf: P.L.1987, c.76, s.59)

- 17. N.J.S.54A:9-10 is amended to read as follows
- 54A:9-10. (a) Appeal to tax court. Any aggrieved taxpayer may, within 90 days after any decision, order, finding, assessment or action
- 35 of the Director of the Division of Taxation made pursuant to the
- 36 provisions of this act, appeal therefrom to the tax court in accordance
- with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S.
- 38 54:48-1 et seq.
- (b) Any aggrieved taxpayer that has neither protested or appealed
 from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b)
 of R.S.54:49-14, file a claim for refund of the assessment paid.
- 42 (c) Appeal exclusive remedy of taxpayer. The appeal provided by 43 this section shall be the exclusive remedy available to any taxpayer for 44 review of a decision of the director in respect of the determination of 45 the liability of the taxpayer for the taxes imposed by this act.
- 46 [(c)](d) Credit, refund or abatement after review. If the amount

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of a deficiency determined by the director is disallowed in whole or in part, the amount so disallowed shall be credited or refunded to the taxpayer, without the making of claim therefor, or, if payment has not been made, shall be abated.

[(d)**]** (e) Date of finality of director's decision. A decision of the director shall become final upon the expiration of the period specified in subsection (a) for filing a complaint with the tax court, if no such complaint has been filed within such time, or if such complaint has been duly made, upon expiration of the time for all further appeals, or upon the rendering by the director of a decision in accordance with the mandate of the tax court or the courts on appeal. Notwithstanding the foregoing, for the purpose of forming a complaint, the decision of the director shall be deemed final on the date the notice of decision is sent by mail to the taxpayer.

(cf: P.L.1983, c.36, s.48)

18. This act shall take effect immediately and apply to return periods beginning on or after January 1 next following enactment; provided however, that section 14 shall apply to taxable years ending after enactment.

STATEMENT

This bill implements changes to various provisions of the New Jersey tax codes that were recommended by the Tax Advisory Group established by the State Treasurer in 1994 to study State tax issues. These changes allow an alternate remedy for taxpayers that disagree with deficiency assessments, clarify the taxation of nonresidents to promote New Jersey economic activity, and adjust or reduce penalty provisions to encourage tax fairness.

Currently, taxpayers that are assessed a deficiency have, in most cases, 90 days in which to either protest a deficiency assessment or pay the deficiency assessed. Under the federal Internal Revenue Code and the tax laws of most other states taxpayers have an additional alternative: they may pay the amount of the assessed deficiency and file for a refund. This bill would allow a taxpayer that has paid an assessed deficiency but has not protested or appealed that assessment a period of one year from the time of the payment to file a claim for refund.

This bill clarifies that nonresidents will not be subject to New Jersey gross income tax solely on the grounds that they buy and sell securities for their own investment purposes. Under current law, a nonresident partner of a partnership that buys and sells securities from an office in this State is presumed to be subject to New Jersey tax on any income from that trading. The private investment partnerships known as

1 "hedge funds" that trade large blocks of stock on behalf of their

- 2 partners are discouraged from locating in New Jersey because
- 3 neighboring states do not automatically tax nonresident partners on the
- 4 income of hedge funds with office located in those states. This bill will
- 5 remove a tax disincentive to locating hedge funds in New Jersey,
- 6 making New Jersey an equally attractive business location for hedge
- 7 funds, effective for the current taxable year.

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42 43 underpayments.

8 Currently, the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law penalty for the 9 failure to file a tax return is based on a percentage of the total tax 10 liability of the taxpayer. This is true even if the taxpayer, through 11 estimated payments or withholding, has already paid over the entire 12 tax liability. This bill amends the penalty statute so that the penalty is 13 based on the amount of the underpayment of tax rather than the entire 14 tax liability. The bill also amends the corporation business tax 15 underpayment penalty to cap it at 25% of the underpayment in conformity with the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law penalty for 16

New Jersey, like most states, is a "pay as you go" state for income tax purposes: individuals with gross income tax liability and businesses with corporation business tax liability are required to make estimated tax payments throughout the year (although most individuals make their payments through wage and salary withholding). This bill makes several changes to the requirements, "safe harbors" and penalties concerning estimated tax payments.

Currently, individuals must make quarterly estimated payments if their tax liability for the current year is expected to exceed their withholding or other prepayments by more than \$100. This bill increases the threshold to \$400. That change is expected to eliminate the processing of about 350,000 tax estimated payments annually of less than \$100 each. This bill also extends the estimated payment requirements to certain decedent estates and trusts.

Because of the complexity of exactly estimating tax payments, the income taxes provide "safe harbor" estimated payment amounts, alternative amounts of payment based on percentages of current or previous year liability which, if paid, protect the taxpayer from the imposition of penalties for underpayment of estimated taxes. Currently, one of the safe harbors for individual taxpayers protects them from estimated tax underpayment penalty if they make estimated payments equal to their tax liability for the previous year. This bill increases that requirement for taxpayers with taxable income for the preceding taxable year of more than \$150,000 (\$75,000 for married taxpayers filing separately) to 110% of the tax liability for the previous year.

This bill also allows the payment of a smaller penalty for the underpayment of estimated taxes. If a taxpayer fails to meet one of the estimated tax safe harbors and underpays estimated taxes, the

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- 1 amount of the underpayment (on which penalties are assessed) is
- 2 determined as the difference between the estimated payments made
- 3 and 90% of the corporate tax actually due (or 80% of the gross
- 4 income tax due for individual taxpayers). This bill allows an
- 5 alternative calculation of the underpayment amount based on 100% of
- 6 the previous year's tax due.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1730

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 4, 1998

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1730 with committee amendments.

Assembly Bill No. 1730, as amended, implements changes to various provisions of the New Jersey tax codes that were recommended by the Tax Advisory Group established by the State Treasurer in 1994 to study State tax issues. These changes (1) allow an alternate remedy for taxpayers that disagree with deficiency assessments, (2) clarify the taxation of certain nonresidents to promote New Jersey economic activity, and (3) adjust or reduce penalty provisions to encourage tax fairness.

New deficiency assessment remedy: pay, then claim refund. Currently, taxpayers that are assessed a deficiency have, in most cases, 90 days in which to either protest a deficiency assessment or pay the deficiency assessed. Under the federal Internal Revenue Code and the tax laws of most other states, taxpayers have an additional alternative: they may pay the amount of the assessed deficiency and file for a refund. This bill would allow a taxpayer that has not protested or appealed any part of that assessment, but instead paid the assessed deficiency in full within one year after expiration of the time allowed for protesting the assessment, to file a claim for refund of the assessment paid at any time within 450 days of the date of expiration.

Taxation of nonresident "hedge fund" taxpayers. Under current law, a nonresident partner of a partnership that buys and sells securities from an office in this State is presumed to be subject to New Jersey tax on any income from that trading. The private investment partnerships known as "hedge funds" that trade large blocks of stock on behalf of their partners are discouraged from locating in New Jersey because neighboring states do not automatically tax nonresident partners on the income of hedge funds with offices located in those states. The bill provides that nonresidents will not be subject to New Jersey gross income tax solely on the grounds that they buy and sell securities for their own investment purposes.

Mitigation of tax penalty rules. Currently, the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law penalty for failure to file a tax return is based

on a percentage of the taxpayer's total tax liability. This rule applies even if the taxpayer, through estimated payments or withholding, has already paid the entire tax liability. The bill amends the penalty statute so that, provided the return is filed within 30 days of the date on which the first notice of delinquency in filing the return was sent to the taxpayer, the penalty would be based on the amount of the underpayment of tax rather than the amount of the total tax liability. The bill also amends the corporation business tax underpayment penalty to cap it at 25% of the underpayment in conformity with the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law penalty for underpayments.

New Jersey, like most states, requires individuals with gross income tax liability and businesses with corporation business tax liability to make estimated tax payments throughout the year (although most individuals make their payments through wage and salary withholding). The bill makes several changes to the requirements, "safe harbors", and penalties concerning estimated tax payments.

Currently, individuals must make quarterly estimated payments if their tax liability for the current year is expected to exceed their withholding or other prepayments by more than \$100. The bill increases the threshold to \$400. That change is expected to eliminate in each year the processing of about 350,000 quarterly estimated tax payments of less than \$100 each. The bill also extends the estimated payment requirements to certain decedent estates and trusts.

Because of the complexity of exactly estimating tax payments, the income taxes provide "safe harbor" estimated payment amounts: that is, alternative amounts of payment based on percentages of current or previous year liability which, if paid, protect the taxpayer from the imposition of penalties for underpayment of estimated tax. Currently, one of the safe harbors for individual taxpayers protects them from estimated tax underpayment penalty if they make estimated payments equal to 100% of their tax liability for the previous year. The bill increases that requirement for taxpayers with taxable income for the preceding taxable year of more than \$150,000 (\$75,000 for married taxpayers filing separately) to 110% of the tax liability for the previous year.

The bill also provides for an alternative calculation of the amount of the penalty for the underpayment of estimated taxes. Currently, if a taxpayer fails to meet one of the estimated tax safe harbors and underpays estimated taxes, the amount of the underpayment used as the basis for the assessment of penalties is the difference between the estimated payments made and 90% of the corporate tax actually due (or 80% of the gross income tax due for individual taxpayers). The bill allows the calculation of the underpayment amount to be based instead on 100% of the previous year's tax due.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments:

- (1) incorporate the provision limiting use of the amount of any underpayment of tax, rather than the amount of the entire tax liability, in computing the penalty for late filing of a return to taxpayers who file the return within 30 days of transmittal of the first notice of delinquency;
- (2) revise the new refund request remedy for deficiency assessments to: (a) require that payment of the assessment have been made within one year of the date on which the deficiency protest period expires, rather than that the payment have been "timely" made; (b) require that the taxpayer file the refund claim within 450 days of the date on which the deficiency protest period expires rather, than within one year of the time the deficiency assessment was paid; and (c) specify that the deficiency must have been paid in full and that the limit on the refund is the amount of deficiency assessment paid, rather than the amount of tax paid;
 - (3) clarify the wording of the provision concerning "hedge funds".

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department of the Treasury is unable to estimate the fiscal impact of this bill because the necessary data are not available. The Treasury notes that most of the provisions of the legislation would have little if any revenue impact.

FISCAL NOTE

ASSEMBLY, No. 1730

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 24, 1998

BILL SUMMARY

Assembly Bill No. 1730 of 1998 implements changes to various provisions of the New Jersey tax codes that were recommended by the Tax Advisory Group established by the State Treasurer in 1994 to study State tax issues. These changes allow an alternate remedy for taxpayers that disagree with deficiency assessments, clarify the taxation of nonresidents to promote New Jersey economic activity, and adjust or reduce penalty provisions to encourage tax fairness. Specifically, the bill:

- allows a taxpayer that has paid an assessed deficiency but has not protested or appealed that assessment a period of one year from the time of the payment to file a claim for refund;
- clarifies that nonresidents will not be subject to New Jersey gross income tax solely on the grounds that they buy and sell securities for their own investment purposes. Under current law, private investment partnerships known as "hedge funds" that trade large blocks of stock on behalf of their partners are discouraged from locating in New Jersey because neighboring states do not automatically tax nonresident partners on the income of hedge funds with offices located in those states;
- amends the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law penalty for the failure to file a tax return so that the penalty is based on the amount of the underpayment of tax rather than the entire tax liability;
- amends the corporation business tax underpayment penalty to cap it at 25% of the underpayment in conformity with the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law penalty for underpayments;
- increases from \$100 to \$400 the threshold at which individuals must make quarterly estimated payments if their tax liability for the current year is expected to exceed their withholding or other prepayments, and extends the estimated payment requirements to certain decedent estates and trusts;
- increases the "safe harbor" estimated payment amounts for taxpayers with taxable income for the preceding taxable year of

more than \$150,000 (\$75,000 for married taxpayers filing separately) from 100 percent to 110 percent of the tax liability for the previous year; and

 allows the payment of a smaller penalty for the underpayment of estimated taxes, if a taxpayer fails to meet one of the estimated tax safe harbors.

AGENCY COMMENTS

The Department of the Treasury is unable to estimate the fiscal impact of this bill because the necessary data are not available. The Treasury notes that most of the provisions of the bill would have little if any revenue impact.

In particular, Treasury notes that no data exist on the number of assessed deficiencies that are successfully appealed and reversed, but that the extension of a one-year appeal period will not result in a large revenue loss. The provisions clarifying that nonresident partners in "hedge funds" will not be subject to New Jersey income tax also would have a minimal fiscal impact if such partnerships are discouraged from locating in the State under current law. The number of such partnerships is unknown. The revenue impact of changes in penalties for the underpayment of tax are also unknown due to a lack of data.

Lastly, the provisions regarding estimated tax payment thresholds and the "safe harbor" levels of estimated tax payments are primarily a timing issue, not a revenue issue. Tax payments would be shifted from quarterly estimated payments to final payments. According to the Treasury, the bulk of estimated payments for any tax year come in during the third and forth payments, which occur during the same fiscal year as final payments for that tax year. Therefore, the timing of the payments, not the total amount of tax payments would be primarily affected.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES COMMENTS

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) accepts the Department of the Treasury's estimate that this bill would have an unknown, but relatively small fiscal impact on State revenue collections. The OLS has no independent source of data to estimate the cost of these provisions.

This fiscal note has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67.

SENATE, No. 674

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 23, 1998

Sponsored by: Senator PETER A. INVERSO District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex) Senator RAYMOND J. LESNIAK District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Provides alternate remedy for State taxpayers assessed deficiencies, clarifies State gross income taxation of nonresident hedge fund partners, affects certain State tax penalty provisions.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/20/1998)

1 **AN ACT** concerning State tax assessments and liabilities, amending various sections of statutory law.

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

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- 7 1. Section 5 of P.L.1981, c.184 (C.54:10A-15.4) is amended to 8 read as follows:
- 5. a. In case of any underpayment of an installment payment by a taxpayer, there shall be added to the tax for the fiscal or calendar accounting year an amount determined by applying the rate established in this section to the amount of the underpayment for the period of the underpayment.
- b. For purposes of subsection a., the amount of underpayment shall be the excess of:
 - (1) The <u>lesser of the</u> amount of the installment payment which would be required to be paid if all installment payments were equal to 90% of the tax shown on the return for the fiscal or calendar accounting year, or if no return was filed, 90% of the tax for that year, or 100% of the tax shown on the tax return of the taxpayer for the preceding taxable year over
- 22 (2) The amount, if any, of the installment payment paid on or 23 before the last date prescribed for payment.
 - c. For purposes of subsection a., the period of the underpayment shall run from the date the installment payment was required to be paid to whichever of the following dates is the earlier:
 - (1) The fifteenth day of the fourth month after the close of the fiscal or calendar accounting year.
- 29 (2) With respect to any portion of the underpayment, the date on 30 which that portion is paid.
 - For purposes of this subsection, a payment of any installment payment shall be considered a payment of any previous underpayment only to the extent that payment exceeds the amount of the installment payment determined under subsection b. (1) for that installment payment.
- d. Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding subsections, the addition to the tax with respect to any underpayment of any installment payment shall not be imposed if the total amount of all installment payments made on or before the last date prescribed for the payment of that installment equals or exceeds the amount which would have been required to be paid on or before that date if the total amount of all installment payments were the lesser of (1) or (2) as follows:
 - (1) An amount equal to the tax computed at the rates applicable to

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

the current fiscal or calendar accounting year but otherwise on the basis of the facts shown on the return of the taxpayer for, and the law applicable to, the preceding fiscal or calendar accounting year; or

- (2) An amount equal to 90% of the tax for the current fiscal or calendar accounting year computed by placing on an annualized basis the taxable entire net income and entire net worth:
- (a) For the first three months of the current fiscal or calendar accounting year, in the case of the installment payment required to be paid in the fourth month,
- (b) For the first three months or for the first five months of the current fiscal or calendar accounting year, in the case of the installment payment required to be paid in the sixth month,
- (c) For the first six months or for the first eight months of the current fiscal or calendar accounting year, in the case of the installment payment required to be paid in the ninth month,
- (d) For the first nine months or for the first 11 months of the current fiscal or calendar accounting year, in the case of the installment payment required to be paid in the 12th month, and
- (e) For the last three months of the preceding taxable year, in the case of the installment payment required to be paid in the first month of the current fiscal or calendar accounting year.
- e. Any taxpayer who shall fail to pay, or shall underpay by more than 10% of the amount due, any installment payment required pursuant to this act, shall pay, in addition to the tax, interest on the amount of underpayment as provided in the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1 et seq.

27 (cf: P.L.1987, c.76, s.50)

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- 29 2. Section 19 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-19) is amended to 30 read as follows:
- 31 19. The director may grant a reasonable extension of time for the 32 filing of returns or the payment of tax or both, under such rules and 33 regulations as he shall prescribe, which rules and regulations may 34 require the filing of a tentative return and the payment of an estimated tax. If the time for filing the return shall be extended, the payment of 35 36 the portion of the tax remaining to be paid, if any, shall be postponed 37 to the date fixed by the extension of the time for the filing of the 38 return, but in every such case the corporation shall pay, in addition to 39 the unpaid portion of the tax, interest thereon at the rate as provided 40 in the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1 et seq., from 41 the time when the return originally was required to be filed to the date 42 of actual payment under the extension; provided, that if such unpaid 43 portion of the tax is not paid within the time fixed under the extension, 44 the interest on such unpaid portion shall be computed at the rate as 45 provided in the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1 et seq., from the date the tax was originally due to the date of actual 46

- 1 payment and if the amounts paid up to and including the time of the
- 2 filing of the tentative return total less than the lesser of: 90% of the
- amount due; or for a taxpayer that had a preceding fiscal or calendar 3
- 4 accounting year of 12 months and filed a return for that year showing
- 5 a liability for tax, an amount equal to the tax computed at the rates
- 6 applicable to the current fiscal or calendar accounting year but
- otherwise on the basis of the facts shown on the return of the taxpayer 7
- 8 for, and the law applicable to, the preceding fiscal or calendar
- 9 accounting year, the taxpayer shall be liable for a penalty of 5% per
- 10 month or fraction thereof on the amount of underpayment, not to
- exceed 25% of that underpayment, which shall be in addition to the 11
- 12 interest charges provided above.
- 13 (cf: P.L.1992, c.175, s.20)

- 15 3. Section 11 of P.L.1947, c.50 (C.54:10A-19.2) is amended to 16 read as follows:
- 17 11. a. Any aggrieved taxpayer may, within 90 days after any action
- 18 of the director made pursuant to the provisions of this act, appeal
- 19 therefrom to the tax court in accordance with the provisions of the
- 20 State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S. 54:48-1 et seq.
- 21 b. Any aggrieved taxpayer that has neither protested or appealed
- 22 from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b)
- 23 of R.S.54:49-14, file a claim for refund of the assessment paid.
- 24 (cf: P.L.1983, c.36, s.23)

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- 26 4. Section 18 of P.L.1973, c.31 (C.54:10D-17) is amended to read 27 as follows:
- 28 18. a. Any aggrieved taxpayer may, within 90 days after any
- 29 decision, order, finding, assessment or action of the director made
- 30 pursuant to the provisions of this act, appeal therefrom to the tax
- court in accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform 31
- 32 Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1 et seq.
- b. Any aggrieved taxpayer that has neither protested or appealed 33
- 34 from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b)
- of R.S.54:49-14 file a claim for refund of the assessment paid. 35
- 36 (cf: P.L.1983, c.36, s.24)

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- 38 5. Section 21 of P.L.1973, c.170 (C.54:10E-21) is amended to 39 read as follows:
- 40 21. <u>a.</u> Any aggrieved taxpayer may, within 90 days after any
- decision, order, finding, assessment or action of the director made
- 42 pursuant to the provisions of this act, appeal therefrom to the tax
- 43 court in accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform
- 44 Procedure Law, R.S. 54:48-1 et seq.
- 45 b. Any aggrieved taxpayer that has neither protested or appealed
- from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b) 46

1 of R.S.54:49-14, file a claim for refund of the assessment paid.

2 (cf: P.L.1983, c.36, s.25)

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- 4 6. Section 8 of P.L.1990, c.42 (C.54:15B-8) is amended to read as follows:
- 6 8. a. (1) If a return required by this act is not filed, or if a return 7 when filed is incorrect or insufficient in the opinion of the director, the 8 amount of tax due shall be determined by the director from the 9 information available.
 - (2) If because of an affiliation of interests between a company subject to tax under this act and any purchaser the gross receipts from sale transactions are not indicative of or representative of market price, the director may at the director's discretion, utilize external indices to establish gross receipts.
 - (3) (a) Notice of a determination pursuant to this subsection shall be given to the company liable for the payment of the tax. Such determination shall finally and irrevocably fix the tax unless the company against which it is assessed, within 30 days after receiving notice of the determination, shall apply to the director for a hearing, or unless the director on the director's own motion shall redetermine the same. After such hearing the director shall give notice of the determination to the company to which the tax is assessed.
 - (b) Any aggrieved taxpayer that has neither protested or appealed from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b) of R.S.54:49-14, file a claim for refund of the assessment paid.
 - b. The certificate of the director to the effect that a tax has not been paid, that a return has not been filed, that a prescribed certificate has not been issued, that information has not been supplied or that inaccurate information has been supplied pursuant to the provisions of this act or rules or regulations adopted hereunder shall be prima facie evidence thereof.
 - c. In addition to the other powers granted to the director in this section, the director is hereby authorized and empowered:
 - (1) To delegate to any officer or employee of the division such powers and duties as the director may deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, and the person or persons to whom such power has been delegated shall possess and may exercise all of said powers and perform all of the duties delegated by the director;
 - (2) To prescribe and distribute all necessary forms and certificates for the implementation of this act; and
- 41 (3) To administer and enforce the tax imposed by this act and to 42 make and adopt such rules and regulations and to require such facts and information to be reported as the director may deem necessary to 43 44 enforce the provisions of this act.
- 45 d. The tax imposed by this act shall be governed in all respects by the provisions of the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1 46

1 et seq., except only to the extent that a specific provision of this act 2 may be in conflict therewith.

3 (cf: P.L.1991, c.181, s.5)

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- 5 7. Section 20 of P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-20) is amended to read 6 as follows:
- 20. (a) In the manner provided in this section the director shall 7 8 refund or credit any tax, penalty or interest erroneously, illegally or 9 unconstitutionally collected or paid if application to the director for 10 such refund shall be made within four years from the payment thereof. 11 Such application may be made by a customer who has actually paid the 12 tax. Such application may also be made by a person required to 13 collect the tax, who has collected and paid over such tax to the 14 director, provided that the application is made within four years of the 15 payment to him by the customer, but no actual refund of moneys shall 16 be made to such person until [he]the person shall first establish to the 17 satisfaction of the director, under such regulations as [he] the director 18 may prescribe, that [he] the person has repaid to the customer the 19 amount for which the application for refund is made. The director

may, in lieu of any refund, allow credit on payments due from the

- applicant. 22 (b) A person shall not be entitled to a revision, refund or credit 23 under this section of a tax, interest or penalty which had been 24 determined to be due pursuant to the provisions of section 19 of P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-19) where [he] the person has had a 25 26 hearing or an opportunity for a hearing as provided in said section or 27 has failed to [avail himself of] use the remedies therein provided 28 unless the person otherwise meets the requirements of subsection (b) 29 of R.S.54:49-14. No refund or credit shall be made of a tax, interest 30 or penalty paid after a determination by the director made pursuant to 31 section 19 of P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-19) unless it be found that 32 such determination was erroneous, illegal or unconstitutional or 33 otherwise improper, pursuant to law, in which event refund or credit shall be made of the tax, interest or penalty found to have been 34 35 overpaid.
- (cf: P.L.1992, c.175, s.32) 36

- 38 8. R.S.54:34-13 is amended to read as follows:
- 39 54:34-13. a. Any interested person dissatisfied with the 40 appraisement or assessment so made may appeal therefrom to the tax 41 court within 90 days after the making and entering of the assessment, 42 in accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform Procedure 43 Law, R.S. 54:48-1 et seq.
- 44 b. Any aggrieved taxpayer that has neither protested or appealed 45 from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b)

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     of R.S.54:49-14, file a claim for refund of the assessment paid.
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     (cf: P.L.1983, c.36, s.38)
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        9. R.S.54:38-10 is amended to read as follows:
        54:38-10. <u>a.</u> The tax court on appeal shall have jurisdiction to
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     hear and determine all questions in relation to any tax imposed under
     the provisions of this chapter. Any executor, administrator, trustee,
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     person or corporation liable for the payment of any tax imposed by this
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     chapter may appeal to the tax court for a review thereof within 90
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     days of the date of notice assessing the tax complained of, in
     accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform Procedure
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     Law, R.S.54:48-1 et seq.
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        b. Any aggrieved taxpayer that has neither protested or appealed
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     from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b)
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     of R.S.54:49-14, file a claim for refund of the assessment paid.
     (cf: P.L.1983, c.36, s.39)
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        10. Section 14 of P.L1990, c.39 (C.54:40B-14) is amended to read
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     as follows:
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        14. a. Any aggrieved taxpayer may, within 90 days after any
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     decision, order, finding, assessment or action of the director made
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     pursuant to the provisions of this act, appeal therefrom to the tax
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     court in accordance with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform
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     Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1 et seq.
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        b. Any aggrieved executor, administrator, trustee, person or
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     corporation liable for the payment of any tax imposed by this chapter
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     that has neither protested or appealed from an additional assessment
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     of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b) of R.S.54:49-14, file a claim for
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     refund of the assessment paid.
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        c. The appeal provided by this section shall be the exclusive
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     remedy available to any taxpayer for review of a decision of the
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     director in respect of the determination of the liability of the taxpayer
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     for the taxes imposed by this act.
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     (cf: P.L.1990, c.39, s.14)
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        11. R.S.54:45-6 is amended to read as follows:
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        54:45-6. Any taxpayer, at any time within four years after the
     payment of any original or additional tax assessed against [him] the
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     taxpayer may file with the director a claim under oath for refund, in
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     such form as the director may prescribe, stating the ground therefor,
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     but no claim for refund shall be required or permitted to be filed with
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     respect to a tax paid after protest has been filed with the director or
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     after proceedings on appeal have been commenced as provided in this
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     subtitle <u>until after the protest or appeal has been finally determined</u>.
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(cf: P.L.1992, c.175, s.39)

12. R.S.54:49-4 is amended to read as follows:

2 54:49-4. In addition thereto any taxpayer failing to file a return 3 with the director within the time prescribed under the act imposing 4 such tax shall be liable to a late filing penalty of \$100 for each month or fraction thereof that such return is delinquent, plus a penalty of 5% 5 per month or fraction thereof of the **[**total tax liability**]** <u>underpayment</u> 6 7 not to exceed 25% of such [tax liability] <u>underpayment</u>. Unless any 8 part of any underpayment of tax required to be shown on a return or 9 report is shown to be due to reasonable cause, there shall be added to 10 the tax an amount equal to 5% of the underpayment.

11 (cf: P.L.1992, c.175, s.2)

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13. R.S.54:49-14 is amended to read as follows:

14 54:49-14. a. Any taxpayer, at any time within four years after the 15 payment of any original or additional tax assessed against him, unless 16 a shorter limit is fixed by the law imposing the tax, may file with the 17 director a claim under oath for refund, in such form as the director 18 may prescribe, stating the grounds therefor, but no claim for refund shall be required or permitted to be filed with respect to a tax paid, 19 20 after protest has been filed with the director or after proceedings on 21 appeal have been commenced as provided in this subtitle, until such 22 protest or appeal has been finally determined. The signing of an 23 agreement by the taxpayer and the director extending the period for 24 assessment shall likewise extend the period for filing a claim for 25 refund.

26 b. No taxpayer shall be precluded from claiming a refund of 27 additional tax assessed solely on the ground that the taxpayer neither 28 protested or appealed from the assessment. A taxpayer that neither 29 protested or appealed from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to this subsection, file a claim for the refund of the 30 31 assessment within one year after the payment thereof; provided 32 however, that the payment must have been timely made, as provided 33 in the notice of deficiency assessment or by an extended due date as 34 agreed to in writing by the director. The amount of a refund made 35 pursuant to this subsection shall not exceed the portion of the tax paid 36 during the one-year period preceding the filing of the claim. A refund claim shall be filed under oath, in a form as the director may prescribe, 37 38 and shall state the grounds therefor, which grounds shall be limited to 39 those issues raised by the deficiency assessment itself and shall not 40 include any additional issues with respect to the original assessment of tax. The filing of a claim for refund by the taxpayer under this 41 42 subsection shall neither extend or toll the time to request a hearing or 43 appeal an additional assessment of tax as otherwise provided by law. 44 The denial of a claim for refund shall be an action of the director 45 subject to review pursuant to section 54:51A-14 of P.L.1983, c.45. 46 c. Each taxpayer shall file a separate refund claim. A refund claim 1 on behalf of a class is not permitted.

[c.] d. If a tax is declared to be discriminatory in a final judicial decision from which all appeals have been exhausted, the director may, within the director's sole discretion, refund or credit only the discriminatory portion of the tax.

6 (cf: P.L.1992, c.175, s.5)

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- 8 14. N.J.S.54A:5-8 is amended to read as follows:
- 9 54A:5-8. <u>a.</u> Income from sources within this State for a nonresident individual, estate or trust means the income from the categories of gross income enumerated and classified under chapter 5 of this act to the extent that it is earned, received or acquired from sources within this State:
 - (1) By reason of ownership or disposition of any interest in real or tangible personal property in this State; or
- 16 (2) In connection with a trade, profession, occupation carried on 17 in this State or for the rendition of personal services performed in this 18 State; or
 - (3) As a distributive share of the income of an unincorporated business, profession, enterprise, undertaking or other activity as the result of work done, services rendered or other business activities conducted in this State except as allocated to another state pursuant to regulations promulgated by the director under this act; or
 - (4) From intangible personal property employed in a trade, profession, occupation or business carried on in this State; or
 - (5) As a result of any lottery or wagering transaction in this State other than that excluded from taxation pursuant to N.J.S.54A:6-11; or
 - (6) As S corporation income allocated to this State of a New Jersey S corporation.
- <u>b.</u> Income from sources within this State for a nonresident
 individual shall not include income from pensions and annuities as set
 forth in subsection j. of N.J.S.54A:5-1.
- c. For purposes of paragraphs (2) through (4) of subsection a. of
 this section, a nonresident individual, estate, trust or partnership shall
- 35 not be deemed to be carrying on a trade, profession, occupation,
- business, enterprise, undertaking or other activity in this State, or to be rendering personal services in this State, solely as a result of the
- be rendering personal services in this State, solely as a result of the purchase and sale of intangible personal property by the individual.
- purchase and sale of intangible personal property by the individual, estate, trust or partnership, to the extent that (1) the individual's,
- 40 estate's, trust's or partnership's activities related to the intangible
- 41 personal property are for the account of the individual, estate, trust or
- 42 partnership and (2) the individual, estate, trust or partnership does not
- 43 <u>hold the intangible personal property for sale to customers in the</u>
- 44 ordinary course of a trade, profession, occupation, business,
- 45 enterprise, undertaking or other activity. For the purposes of this
- 46 <u>subsection</u>, intangible personal property shall not include options,

1 other than options to purchase or sell intangible personal property.

2 (cf: P.L.1993, c.173, s.10)

- 15. N.J.S.54A:8-4 is amended to read as follows:
- 5 54A:8-4. Declarations of estimated tax. (a) Requirement of filing.
- 6 Every resident and nonresident individual shall make a declaration of
- 7 [his]the individual's estimated New Jersey personal income tax for
- 8 each taxable year beginning after June 30, 1976, if [his] the
- 9 <u>individual's</u> estimated New Jersey personal income tax can reasonably
- be expected to be more than **[**\$100.00**]** <u>\$400</u> in excess of any credits
- allowable against [his] the individual's tax, whether or not [he] the
- 12 <u>individual</u> is required to file a federal declaration of estimated tax for
- 13 such year.
- 14 (b) Definition of estimated tax. The term "estimated tax" means
- 15 the amount which an individual estimates to be [his] the individual's
- 16 income tax under this act for the taxable year, less the amount which
- 17 [he] the individual estimates to be the sum of any credits allowable
- 18 against the tax.
- 19 (c) Joint declaration of husband and wife. A husband and wife may
- 20 make a joint declaration of estimated tax as if they were one taxpayer,
- 21 in which case the liability with respect to the estimated tax shall be
- 22 joint and several. No joint declaration may be made if husband and
- 23 wife are separated under a decree of divorce or of separate
- 24 maintenance, or if they have different taxable years. If a joint
- 25 declaration is made but husband and wife elect to determine their
- 26 taxes under this act separately, the estimated tax for such year may be
- 27 treated as the estimated tax of either husband or wife, or may be
- 28 divided between them, as they may elect.
- 29 (d) Time for filing declaration. Beginning in the taxable year 1976
- 30 and every taxable year thereafter a declaration of estimated tax of an
- 31 individual other than a farmer shall be filed on or before April 15 of
- 32 the taxable year, except that if the requirements of subsection (a) are
- 33 first met:
- 34 (1) After April 1 and before June 2 of the taxable year, the
- 35 declaration shall be filed on or before June 15; or
- 36 (2) After June 1 and before September 2 of the taxable year the
- 37 declaration shall be filed on or before September 15; or
- 38 (3) After September 1 of the taxable year, the declaration shall be
- 39 filed on or before January 15 of the succeeding year.
- 40 (e) Declaration of estimated tax by a farmer. A declaration of
- 41 estimated tax of an individual having an estimated New Jersey income
- 42 from farming (including oyster farming) for the taxable year which is
- at least two-thirds of [his] the individual's total estimated New Jersey
- 44 income for the taxable year may be filed at any time on or before
- 45 January 15 of the succeeding year, in lieu of the time otherwise
- 46 prescribed.

- 1 (f) Declaration of estimated tax of [\$100.00] \$400 or less. A 2 declaration of estimated tax of an individual having a total estimated 3 tax for the taxable year of [\$100.00] \$400 or less may be filed at any 4 time on or before January 15 of the succeeding year under regulations 5 of the director.
- 6 (g) Amendments of declaration. An individual may amend a 7 declaration under regulations of the director.
- 8 (h) Return as declaration or amendment. If on or before February 9 15 of the succeeding taxable year an individual files his return for the 10 taxable year for which the declaration is required, and pays therewith the full amount of the tax shown to be due on the return: 11
 - Such return shall be considered as his declaration if no declaration was required to be filed during the taxable year, but is otherwise required to be filed on or before January 15;
 - (2) Such return shall be considered as the amendment permitted by subsection (g) to be filed on or before January 15 if the tax shown on the return is greater than the estimated tax shown in a declaration previously made.
 - (i) Fiscal year. This section shall apply to a taxable year other than a calendar year by the substitution of the months of such fiscal year for the corresponding months specified in this section.
- (j) Short taxable year. An individual having a taxable year of less 22 23 than 12 months shall make a declaration in accordance with regulations of the director.
 - (k) Declaration for individual under a disability. The declaration of estimated tax for an individual who is unable to make a declaration by reason of minority or other disability shall be made and filed by [his] the individual's guardian, committee, fiduciary or other person charged with the care of [his] the individual's person or property (other than a receiver in possession of only a part of [his] the individual's property), or by [his] the individual's duly authorized
- 33 (l) In the taxable year 1976, no declaration shall be required until 34 the lapse of at least one full calendar quarter following enactment of 35 this act.
- 36 (m) This section shall also apply to an estate or trust taxpayer 37 other than an estate or trust that meets the two year limitation and 38 other criteria of paragraph (2) of subsection (1) of section 6654 of the 39 federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. s.6654.

40 (cf: N.J.S.54A:8-4)

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- 16. N.J.S.54A:9-6 is amended to read as follows: 42
- 43 54A:9-6. Additions to tax and civil penalties. (a) Failure to file tax 44 return. In case of failure to file a tax return under this act on or before 45 the prescribed date (determined with regard to any extension of time for filing), unless it is shown that such failure is due to reasonable 46

- cause and not due to willful neglect, there shall be added to the 1 2 amount required to be shown as tax on such return such amount as is 3 required under the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S.54:48-1 et 4 seq. For this purpose, the amount of tax required to be shown on the return shall be reduced by the amount of any part of the tax which is 5 6 paid on or before the date prescribed for payment of the tax and by the 7 amount of any credit against the tax which may be claimed upon the 8 return.
 - (b) Deficiency due to negligence. If any part of a deficiency is due to negligence or intentional disregard of this act or rules or regulations hereunder (but without intent to defraud), there shall be added to the tax an amount equal to 10% of the deficiency.

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- 13 (c) Failure to file declaration or underpayment of estimated tax. 14 If any taxpayer fails to file a declaration of estimated tax or fails to pay 15 all or any part of an installment of estimated tax, [he]the taxpayer shall be deemed to have made an underpayment of estimated tax 16 except as provided pursuant to subsection (d) of this section. There 17 18 shall be added to the tax for the taxable year an amount at the rate as 19 is required under the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law, R.S. 54:48-1 20 et seq., upon the amount of the underpayment for the period of the 21 underpayment but not beyond the 15th day of the fourth month 22 following the close of the taxable year. The amount of underpayment 23 shall be the excess of the <u>lesser of: (1) the</u> amount of the installment 24 which would be required to be paid if the estimated tax were equal to 25 80% of the tax (two-thirds of the tax for farmers referred to in subsection (e) of section 54A:8-4) shown on the return for the taxable 26 year (or if no return was filed, of the tax for such year), or (2) 100% 27 28 of the tax shown on the tax return of the taxpayer for the preceding 29 taxable year; over the amount, if any, of the installment paid on or 30 before the last day prescribed for such payment. No underpayment 31 shall be deemed to exist with respect to a declaration or installment 32 otherwise due on or after the taxpayer's death.
 - (d) Exception to addition for underpayment of estimated tax. The addition to tax under subsection (c) with respect to any underpayment of any installment shall not be imposed if the total amount of all payments of estimated tax made on or before the last date prescribed for the payment of such installment equals or exceeds whichever of the following set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) and subject to paragraph (3) is the lesser--
- 40 (1) The amount which would have been required to be paid on or 41 before such date if the estimated tax were whichever of the following 42 is the least--
- (A) [The] An amount equal to 100% of the tax shown on the return of the [individual] taxpayer for the preceding taxable year, except as provided pursuant to pursuant to paragraph (3) of this subsection, if a return showing a liability for tax was filed by the

- 1 [individual] taxpayer for the preceding taxable year and such 2 preceding year was a taxable year of 12 months, or
- 3 (B) An amount equal to 100% of the tax computed, except as
 4 provided pursuant to pursuant to paragraph (3) of this subsection, at
 5 the rates applicable to the taxable year, on the basis of the taxpayer's
 6 status with respect to [his] the taxpayer's personal exemptions for the
 7 taxable year, but otherwise on the basis of the facts shown on [his]
 8 the taxpayer's return for, and the law applicable to, the preceding
 9 taxable year, or
- 10 (C) An amount equal to 80% of the tax for the taxable year 11 (two-thirds of the tax for farmers referred to in subsection (e) of 12 section 54A:8-4) computed by placing on an annualized basis the 13 income for the months in the taxable year ending before the month in 14 which the installment is required to be paid (or, in the case of a trust 15 or estate, the income for the months ending before the date one month before the month in which the installment is required). For purposes 16 17 of this subparagraph, the income shall be placed on an annualized basis 18
- (i) Multiplying by 12 (or, in the case of a taxable year of less than 12 months, the number of months in the taxable year) the income for the months in the taxable year ending before the month in which the installment is required to be paid (or, in the case of a trust or estate, the income for the months ending before the date one month before the month in which the installment is required),

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- (ii) Dividing the resulting amount by the number of months in the taxable year ending before the month in which such installment date falls (or, in the case of a trust or estate, the number of months ending before the date one month before the month in which such installment date falls), and
- (iii) Deducting from such amount the deductions for personal exemptions allowable for the taxable year (such personal exemptions being determined as of the last date prescribed for payment of the installment); or
- (2) An amount equal to 90% of the tax computed, at the rates applicable to the taxable year, on the basis of the actual income for the months in the taxable year ending before the month in which the installment is required to be paid.
- 38 (3) If the taxable gross income shown on the return of the taxpayer 39 for the preceding taxable year exceeds \$150,000 (\$75,000 in the case 40 of a married individual within the meaning of section 7703 of the 41 federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. s.7703, filing separately for the taxable year for which the amount of the installment 42 43 is being determined) subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) of 44 this subsection shall be applied by substituting "110%" for "100%". 45 For purposes of this paragraph, "taxable gross income" means gross
- 46 income after any allowable deductions under chapters 3 or 3A of the

- "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act" (C.54A:3-1 et seq and 1
- 2 54A:3A-1 et seq); or, in the case of a trust or estate, gross income
- 3 after any allowable deductions or exemptions, income commissions
- 4 and amounts distributed or credited to beneficiaries; and "gross
- 5 income" for a nonresident means gross income calculated as if such
- 6 nonresident were a resident.

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- (e) Deficiency due to fraud. If any part of a deficiency is due to 8 fraud, there shall be added to the tax an amount equal to 50% of the deficiency. This amount shall be in lieu of any other addition to tax 10 imposed by subsection (a) or (b).
 - (f) Nonwillful failure to pay withholding tax. If any employer, without intent to evade or defeat any tax imposed by this act or the payment thereof, shall fail to make a return and pay a tax withheld by him at the time required by or under the provisions of section 54A:7-4, such employer shall be liable for such tax and shall pay the same together with interest thereon and the addition to tax provided in subsection (a), and such interest and addition to tax shall not be charged to or collected from the employee by the employer. The director shall have the same rights and powers for the collection of such tax, interest and addition to tax against such employer as are now prescribed by this act for the collection of tax against an individual taxpayer.
 - (g) Willful failure to collect and pay over tax. Any person required to collect, truthfully account for, and pay over the tax imposed by this act who willfully fails to collect such tax or truthfully account for and pay over such tax or willfully attempts in any manner to evade or defeat the tax or the payment thereof, shall, in addition to other penalties provided by law, be liable to a penalty equal to the total amount of the tax evaded, or not collected, or not accounted for and paid over. No addition to tax under subsection (b) or (c) shall be imposed for any offense to which this subsection applies.
- 32 (h) Failure to file certain information returns. In case of each 33 failure to file a statement of a payment to another person, required 34 under authority of subsection (c) of section 54A:8-6 (relating to information at source, including the duplicate statement of tax 35 withheld on wages) on the date prescribed therefor (determined with 36 37 regard to any extension of time for filing), unless it is shown that such 38 failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect, there shall, 39 upon notice and demand by the director and in the same manner as tax, 40 be paid by the person so failing to file the statement, a penalty of \$2.00 41 for each statement not so filed, but the total amount imposed on the 42 delinquent person for all such failures during any calendar year shall 43 not exceed \$2,000.00.
- 44 (i) Additional penalty. Any person who with fraudulent intent shall 45 fail to pay, or to deduct or withhold and pay, any tax, or to make, render, sign or certify any return or declaration of estimated tax or to 46

- supply any information within the time required by or under this act,
- 2 shall be liable to penalty of not more than \$5,000.00, in addition to any
- other amounts required under this act, to be imposed, assessed and
- 4 collected by the director. The director shall have the power, in his
- 5 discretion, to waive, reduce or compromise any penalty under this
- 6 subsection.
- 7 (j) Additions treated as tax. The additions to tax and penalties 8 provided by this section shall be paid upon notice and demand and 9 shall be assessed, collected and paid in the same manner as taxes and 10 any reference in this act to income tax or tax imposed by this act, shall 11 be deemed also to refer to the additions to tax and penalties provided
- by this section. For purposes of section 54A:9-2, this subsection shall
- 13 not apply to:

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- (1) Any addition to tax under subsection (a) except as to that portion attributable to a deficiency;
 - (2) Any addition to tax under subsection (e); and
 - (3) Any additional penalty under subsection (i).
- 18 (k) Determination of deficiency. For purposes of subsections (b)
- and (c), the amount shown as the tax by the taxpayer upon his return
- shall be taken into account in determining the amount of the deficiency
- 21 only if such return was filed on or before the last day prescribed for
- 22 the filing of such return, determined with regard to any extension of
- 23 time for such filing.
- 24 (1) Person defined. For purposes of subsections (f), (g), (h) and (i),
- 25 the term person or employer includes an individual, corporation or
- 26 partnership or an officer or employee of any corporation (including a
- 27 dissolved corporation) or a member or employee of any partnership,
- 28 who as such officer, employee, or member is under a duty to perform
- 29 the act in respect of which the violation occurs.
- 30 (cf: P.L.1987, c.76, s.59)

- 17. N.J.S.54A:9-10 is amended to read as follows
- 33 54A:9-10. (a) Appeal to tax court. Any aggrieved taxpayer may,
- 34 within 90 days after any decision, order, finding, assessment or action
- 35 of the Director of the Division of Taxation made pursuant to the
- 36 provisions of this act, appeal therefrom to the tax court in accordance
- 37 with the provisions of the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law,
- 38 R.S.54:48-1 et seq.
- (b) Any aggrieved taxpayer that has neither protested or appealed
 from an additional assessment of tax may, pursuant to subsection (b)
- 41 of R.S.54:49-14, file a claim for refund of the assessment paid.
- 42 (c) Appeal exclusive remedy of taxpayer. The appeal provided by
- 43 this section shall be the exclusive remedy available to any taxpayer for
- 44 review of a decision of the director in respect of the determination of
- 45 the liability of the taxpayer for the taxes imposed by this act.
- 46 [(c)](d) Credit, refund or abatement after review. If the amount

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of a deficiency determined by the director is disallowed in whole or in part, the amount so disallowed shall be credited or refunded to the taxpayer, without the making of claim therefor, or, if payment has not been made, shall be abated.

[(d)**]** (e) Date of finality of director's decision. A decision of the director shall become final upon the expiration of the period specified in subsection (a) for filing a complaint with the tax court, if no such complaint has been filed within such time, or if such complaint has been duly made, upon expiration of the time for all further appeals, or upon the rendering by the director of a decision in accordance with the mandate of the tax court or the courts on appeal. Notwithstanding the foregoing, for the purpose of forming a complaint, the decision of the director shall be deemed final on the date the notice of decision is sent by mail to the taxpayer.

15 (cf: P.L.1983, c.36, s.48)

18. This act shall take effect immediately and apply to return periods beginning on or after January 1 next following enactment; provided however, that section 14 shall apply to taxable years ending after enactment.

STATEMENT

This bill implements changes to various provisions of the New Jersey tax codes that were recommended by the Tax Advisory Group established by the State Treasurer in 1994 to study State tax issues. These changes allow an alternate remedy for taxpayers that disagree with deficiency assessments, clarify the taxation of nonresidents to promote New Jersey economic activity, and adjust or reduce penalty provisions to encourage tax fairness.

Currently, taxpayers that are assessed a deficiency have, in most cases, 90 days in which to either protest a deficiency assessment or pay the deficiency assessed. Under the federal Internal Revenue Code and the tax laws of most other states taxpayers have an additional alternative: they may pay the amount of the assessed deficiency and file for a refund. This bill would allow a taxpayer that has paid an assessed deficiency but has not protested or appealed that assessment a period of one year from the time of the payment to file a claim for refund.

This bill clarifies that nonresidents will not be subject to New Jersey gross income tax solely on the grounds that they buy and sell securities for their own investment purposes. Under current law, a nonresident partner of a partnership that buys and sells securities from an office in this State is presumed to be subject to New Jersey tax on any income from that trading. The private investment partnerships known as

- 1 "hedge funds" that trade large blocks of stock on behalf of their
- 2 partners are discouraged from locating in New Jersey because
- 3 neighboring states do not automatically tax nonresident partners on the
- 4 income of hedge funds with office located in those states. This bill will
- 5 remove a tax disincentive to locating hedge funds in New Jersey,
- 6 making New Jersey an equally attractive business location for hedge
- 7 funds, effective for the current taxable year.
- 8 Currently, the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law penalty for the
- 9 failure to file a tax return is based on a percentage of the total tax
- 10 liability of the taxpayer. This is true even if the taxpayer, through
- 11 estimated payments or withholding, has already paid over the entire
- 12 tax liability. This bill amends the penalty statute so that the penalty is
- 13 based on the amount of the underpayment of tax rather than the entire
- 14 tax liability. The bill also amends the corporation business tax
- 15 underpayment penalty to cap it at 25% of the underpayment in
- 16 conformity with the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law penalty for
- 17 underpayments.
- New Jersey, like most states, is a "pay as you go" state for income
- 19 tax purposes: individuals with gross income tax liability and businesses
- with corporation business tax liability are required to make estimated
- 21 tax payments throughout the year (although most individuals make
- 22 their payments through wage and salary withholding). This bill makes
- 23 several changes to the requirements, "safe harbors" and penalties
- 24 concerning estimated tax payments.
- 25 Currently, individuals must make quarterly estimated payments if
- their tax liability for the current year is expected to exceed their withholding or other prepayments by more than \$100. This bill
- withholding or other prepayments by more than \$100. This bill increases the threshold to \$400. That change is expected to eliminate
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- 29 the processing of about 350,000 tax estimated payments annually of
- 30 less than \$100 each. This bill also extends the estimated payment
- 31 requirements to certain decedent estates and trusts.
- 32 Because of the complexity of exactly estimating tax payments, the
- 33 income taxes provide "safe harbor" estimated payment amounts,
- 34 alternative amounts of payment based on percentages of current or
- 35 previous year liability which, if paid, protect the taxpayer from the
- 36 imposition of penalties for underpayment of estimated taxes.
- 37 Currently, one of the safe harbors for individual taxpayers protects
- 38 them from estimated tax underpayment penalty if they make estimated

payments equal to their tax liability for the previous year. This bill

- 40 increases that requirement for taxpayers with taxable income for the
- 41 preceding taxable year of more than \$150,000 (\$75,000 for married
- 42 taxpayers filing separately) to 110% of the tax liability for the previous
- 43 year.

- This bill also allows the payment of a smaller penalty for the
- 45 underpayment of estimated taxes. If a taxpayer fails to meet one of
- 46 the estimated tax safe harbors and underpays estimated taxes, the

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- 1 amount of the underpayment (on which penalties are assessed) is
- 2 determined as the difference between the estimated payments made
- 3 and 90% of the corporate tax actually due (or 80% of the gross
- 4 income tax due for individual taxpayers). This bill allows an
- 5 alternative calculation of the underpayment amount based on 100% of
- 6 the previous year's tax due.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 674

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 21, 1998

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 674.

This bill implements changes to various provisions of the New Jersey tax codes that were recommended by the Tax Advisory Group established by the State Treasurer in 1994 to study State tax issues. These changes (1) allow an alternate remedy for taxpayers that disagree with deficiency assessments, (2) clarify the taxation of certain nonresidents to promote New Jersey economic activity, and (3) adjust or reduce penalty provisions to encourage tax fairness.

New deficiency assessment remedy: pay, then claim refund. Currently, taxpayers that are assessed a deficiency have, in most cases, 90 days in which to either protest a deficiency assessment or pay the deficiency assessed. Under the federal Internal Revenue Code and the tax laws of most other states, taxpayers have an additional alternative: they may pay the amount of the assessed deficiency and file for a refund. This bill would allow a taxpayer that has not protested or appealed any part of that assessment, but instead paid the assessed deficiency in full within one year after expiration of the time allowed for protesting the assessment, to file a claim for refund of the assessment paid at any time within 450 days of the date of expiration.

Taxation of nonresident "hedge fund" taxpayers. Under current law, a nonresident partner of a partnership that buys and sells securities from an office in this State is presumed to be subject to New Jersey tax on any income from that trading. The private investment partnerships known as "hedge funds" that trade large blocks of stock on behalf of their partners are discouraged from locating in New Jersey because neighboring states do not automatically tax nonresident partners on the income of hedge funds with offices located in those states. The bill provides that nonresidents will not be subject to New Jersey gross income tax solely on the grounds that they buy and sell securities for their own investment purposes.

Mitigation of tax penalty rules. Currently, the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law penalty for failure to file a tax return is based on a percentage of the taxpayer's total tax liability. This rule applies

even if the taxpayer, through estimated payments or withholding, has already paid the entire tax liability. The bill amends the penalty statute so that, provided the return is filed within 30 days of the date on which the first notice of delinquency in filing the return was sent to the taxpayer, the penalty would be based on the amount of the underpayment of tax rather than the amount of the total tax liability. The bill also amends the corporation business tax underpayment penalty to cap it at 25% of the underpayment in conformity with the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law penalty for underpayments.

New Jersey, like most states, requires individuals with gross income tax liability and businesses with corporation business tax liability to make estimated tax payments throughout the year (although most individuals make their payments through wage and salary withholding). The bill makes several changes to the requirements, "safe harbors", and penalties concerning estimated tax payments.

Currently, individuals must make quarterly estimated payments if their tax liability for the current year is expected to exceed their withholding or other prepayments by more than \$100. The bill increases the threshold to \$400. That change is expected to eliminate in each year the processing of about 350,000 quarterly estimated tax payments of less than \$100 each. The bill also extends the estimated payment requirements to certain decedent estates and trusts.

Because of the complexity of exactly estimating tax payments, the income taxes provide "safe harbor" estimated payment amounts, i.e., alternative amounts of payment based on percentages of current or previous year liability which, if paid, protect the taxpayer from the imposition of penalties for underpayment of estimated tax. Currently, one of the safe harbors for individual taxpayers protects them from estimated tax underpayment penalty if they make estimated payments equal to 100% of their tax liability for the previous year. The bill increases that requirement for taxpayers with taxable income for the preceding taxable year of more than \$150,000 (\$75,000 for married taxpayers filing separately) to 110% of the tax liability for the previous year.

The bill also provides for an alternative calculation of the amount of the penalty for the underpayment of estimated taxes. Currently, if a taxpayer fails to meet one of the estimated tax safe harbors and underpays estimated taxes, the amount of the underpayment used as the basis for the assessment of penalties is the difference between the estimated payments made and 90% of the corporate tax actually due (or 80% of the gross income tax due for individual taxpayers). The bill allows the calculation of the underpayment amount to be based instead on 100% of the previous year's tax due.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee adopted amendments to this bill to:

- (1) incorporate the provision limiting use of the amount of any underpayment of tax, rather than the amount of the entire tax liability, in computing the penalty for late filing of a return to taxpayers who file the return within 30 days of transmittal of the first notice of delinquency;
- (2) revise the new deficiency assessment remedy provision to (a) require that payment of the assessment have been made within one year of the date on which the assessment became final rather than one year after the assessment was paid, and (b) add the requirement that the taxpayer file the claim within 450 days of the date on which the assessment became final; and
 - (3) clarify the wording of the provision concerning "hedge funds".

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department of the Treasury is unable to estimate the fiscal impact of this bill because the necessary data are not available. The Treasury notes that most of the provisions of the legislation would have little if any impact.

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE, No. 674

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 24, 1998

BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill No.674 of 1998 implements changes to various provisions of the New Jersey tax codes that were recommended by the Tax Advisory Group established by the State Treasurer in 1994 to study State tax issues. These changes allow an alternate remedy for taxpayers that disagree with deficiency assessments, clarify the taxation of nonresidents to promote New Jersey economic activity, and adjust or reduce penalty provisions to encourage tax fairness. Specifically, the bill:

- allows a taxpayer that has paid an assessed deficiency but has not protested or appealed that assessment a period of one year from the time of the payment to file a claim for refund;
- clarifies that nonresidents will not be subject to New Jersey gross income tax solely on the grounds that they buy and sell securities for their own investment purposes. Under current law, private investment partnerships known as "hedge funds" that trade large blocks of stock on behalf of their partners are discouraged from locating in New Jersey because neighboring states do not automatically tax nonresident partners on the income of hedge funds with offices located in those states;
- amends the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law penalty for the failure to file a tax return so that the penalty is based on the amount of the underpayment of tax rather than the entire tax liability;
- amends the corporation business tax underpayment penalty to cap it at 25 percent of the underpayment in conformity with the State Tax Uniform Procedure Law penalty for underpayments;
- increases from \$100 to \$400 the threshold at which individuals must make quarterly estimated payments if their tax liability for the current year is expected to exceed their withholding or other prepayments, and extends the estimated payment requirements to certain decedent estates and trusts;

- increases the "safe harbor" estimated payment amounts for taxpayers with taxable income for the preceding taxable year of more than \$150,000 (\$75,000 for married taxpayers filing separately) from 100 percent to 110 percent of the tax liability for the previous year; and
- allows the payment of a smaller penalty for the underpayment of estimated taxes, if a taxpayer fails to meet one of the estimated tax safe harbors.

AGENCY COMMENTS

The Department of the Treasury is unable to estimate the fiscal impact of this bill because the necessary data are not available. The Treasury notes that most of the provisions of the bill would have little if any revenue impact.

In particular, Treasury notes that no data exist on the number of assessed deficiencies that are successfully appealed and reversed, but that the extension of a one-year appeal period will not result in a large revenue loss. The provisions clarifying that nonresident partners in "hedge funds" will not be subject to New Jersey income tax also would have a minimal fiscal impact if such partnerships are discouraged from locating in the State under current law. The number of such partnerships is unknown. The revenue impact of changes in penalties for the underpayment of tax are also unknown due to a lack of data.

Lastly, the provisions regarding estimated tax payment thresholds and the "safe harbor" levels of estimated tax payments are primarily a timing issue, not a revenue issue. Tax payments would be shifted from quarterly estimated payments to final payments. According to the Treasury, the bulk of estimated payments for any tax year come in during the third and forth payments, which occur during the same fiscal year as final payments for that tax year. Therefore, the timing of the payments, not the total amount of tax payments would be primarily affected.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES COMMENTS

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) accepts the Department of the Treasury's estimate that this bill would have an unknown, but relatively small fiscal impact on State revenue collections. The OLS has no independent source of data to estimate the cost of these provisions.

This fiscal note has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67.

Office of the Governor NEWS RELEASE

PO BOX 004 TRENTON, NJ 08625

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor Wendi Patella 609-777-2600

RELEASE: September 14, 1998

Governor Christie Whitman today signed the following:

Assembly Joint Resolution 48, sponsored by Assembly Members Clare Farragher (R-Monmouth) and Samuel Thompson (R- Middlesex/Monmouth) and Senators Joseph Kyrillos (R- Middlesex/Monmouth) and Donald DiFrancesco (R- Middlesex/Morris/ Somerset/Union), designates a portion of Route 9 in Old Bridge as the Joann H. Smith Memorial Highway. The highway is named to honor the late Assemblywoman for her valuable service as a legislator and local official.

- **A-1730**, sponsored by Assemblyman Paul Kramer (R- Mercer/Middlesex) and Senators Peter Inverso (R- Mercer/Middlesex) and Raymond Lesniak (D-Union), clarifies exemption from gross income tax of nonresident earnings from hedge fund investments. The law also provides additional remedy for taxpayers assessed deficiencies, affects certain state tax penalty provisions, and changes the requirements for estimated quarterly payments.
- **A-261**, sponsored by Assembly Members Guy Talarico (R- Bergen), Ken LeFevre (R-Atlantic) and John Kelly (R- Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Senators Andrew Ciesla (R- Monmouth/Ocean) and Louis Kosco (R-Bergen), which clarifies that state Lottery prizes may be assigned to persons other than the winner in certain circumstances. Under the bill, a person wishing to assign a lottery prize to another individual would have to obtain permission from state or federal court.
- **A-754**, sponsored by Assembly Members Nicholas Asselta (R- Cape May/Atlantic/ Cumberland) and Neil Cohen (D-Union), provides for the sale of check cashing businesses under certain circumstances. The bill clarifies that owners of check cashing businesses may sell their businesses even though the office is within 2,500 feet of another check cashing business or is engaging in a business other than primarily check cashing. The previous law was unclear on this issue.
- **A-848**, sponsored by Assembly Members Clare Farragher (R- Monmouth) and Michael Arnone (R-Monmouth), which regulates sales of horses and prohibits mistreatment of horses. The bill is intended to address concerns raised by a horse owner regarding the maltreatment of horses at a local auction. The bill amends existing law to ensure that all types of horses are protected from abuse. Previous law protected only horses as work" animals, and failed to address horses used in recreation, shows and as pets. The bill provides for monetary penalties of between \$200 to \$500 for violations of its provisions.
- **A-1750**, sponsored by Assembly Members Merkt (R-Morris) and Murphy (R- Essex/Morris/Passaic) and Senators Bucco (R-Morris) and Donald DiFrancesco (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union), appropriates an additional \$2 million to the Department of Community Affairs for expansion and refurbishment of fire training facilities at the Morris County Fire and Police Academy Life Safety Complex. Volunteer firefighters in the 39 municipalities of Morris County will use the complex. The facility will also be available for use by police and fire organizations throughout the state.