

Levine & Ridley-
Author: Thomas Analyst: Funmi Obatolu Bill Number: AB 519
Related Bills: See Prior Telephone: 845-5845 Amended Date: April 3, 2017
Analysis Attorney: Bruce Langston Sponsor: _____

SUBJECT: California Senior Citizen Advocacy Fund

SUMMARY

Under the Revenue and Taxation Code (R&TC), this bill would establish the California Senior Citizen Advocacy Fund (Fund) and allow a taxpayer to make a voluntary contribution on the state personal income tax return. This analysis only addresses the provisions of the bill that impact the department's programs and operations.

RECOMMENDATION – NO POSITION

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

The April 3, 2017, amendments added a co-author and removed the Fund's minimum contribution amount, repeal date, and exemption from specified general provisions. As a result of the amendments, the "This Bill," "Implementation Considerations," and "Economic Impact" sections have been revised and a new implementation consideration has been identified. The remainder of the department's analysis of the bill as introduced February 13, 2017, still applies. The "Fiscal Impact" section has been restated for convenience.

THIS BILL

This bill would establish the California Senior Citizen Advocacy Fund and would allow taxpayers to designate their own monies (not tax liability) for contribution to this fund on their returns in full dollar amounts of \$1 or more. Each signatory on a joint return may make the contributions individually. The designations for any taxable year must be made on the initial return for the taxable year and, once made, are irrevocable. This designation would be required to be added to the 2017 tax return.

This bill would specify that if payments and credits reported on the return do not exceed the taxpayer's liability, the taxpayer's return would be treated as if no designation had been made.

A charitable contribution designation would be allowed on the state income tax return for the year in which a voluntary contribution to this fund is made.

This bill would require the Controller to transfer money designated by taxpayers for the California Senior Citizen Advocacy Fund from the Personal Income Tax Fund. Upon appropriation by the Legislature, monies would be transferred from the California Senior Citizen Advocacy Fund to the State Controller's Office and the Franchise Tax Board for reimbursement of the administrative costs. The remaining monies would be transferred to the California Senior Legislature for purpose of funding the activities on behalf of older persons.

IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

Because the bill fails to specify otherwise, the provisions of R&TC section 18873 would apply. For example, the fund would be subject to the \$250,000 minimum contribution amount and would remain in effect only until January 1 of the seventh calendar following the first appearance of the contribution on the personal income tax return, and is repealed as of December 1 of that year. If this is contrary to the author's intent, this bill should be amended.

FISCAL IMPACT

This bill would not significantly impact the department's costs.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Revenue Estimate

This bill would result in the following revenue loss:

Estimated Revenue Impact of AB 519 As Amended April 3, 2017 Assumed Enactment After June 30, 2017		
2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$0	- \$8,000	- \$8,000

This analysis does not account for changes in employment, personal income, or gross state product that could result from this bill.

Revenue Discussion

This bill would add the California Senior Citizen Advocacy Fund, to the voluntary contribution funds listed on the state's personal income tax return. Although not specified, this estimate assumes that the fund would receive contributions of \$250,000 per year.

Approximately 56 percent of taxpayers who contribute to voluntary contribution funds itemize their deductions. It is estimated the average tax rate for these taxpayers is six percent resulting in an estimated revenue loss of approximately \$8,000 annually.

Contributions would be made in 2018 when the 2017 return is filed. Subsequently, the deduction for such contributions would be claimed on the 2018 return filed by April 15, 2019; therefore, the revenue impact would not occur until fiscal year 2018-19.

LEGISLATIVE STAFF CONTACT

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