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FACT SHEET

Senate Bill 1363 – National Alliance on Mental Illness - California: Voluntary Contribution Fund

CURRENT LAW

Existing law allows taxpayers to contribute money to voluntary contribution funds (VCFs) by checking a box on their Franchise Tax Board Form 540. These check-off amounts may be claimed as charitable contributions on taxpayers' tax returns in the following year.

Each VCF is individually added to the tax return by legislation. With a few exceptions, VCFs remain on the return until they are repealed by a sunset date or fail to generate a minimum contribution amount.

In general, a VCF must generate at least the minimum contribution amount of \$250,000, beginning in the fund's second year, adjusted annually for inflation. For some VCFs, contributions are allocated to a state agency for use in a state administered grant program.

There are currently 24 VCFs listed on the Form 540.

BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 1363 creates the National Alliance on Mental Illness, California (NAMI-CA) Voluntary Tax Contribution fund and allows taxpayers to designate on their Form 540 an exact dollar amount to be donated to NAMI-CA VCF. Donations made to the VCF would fund NAMI-CA's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program that assists in the training of law enforcement officers to assist, and engage safely with, persons living with a mental illness.

This VCF is set to sunset after seven years.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The CIT program is a model for community policing that brings together law enforcement, mental health providers, hospital emergency departments, and individuals with mental illness and their families to aid and improve law enforcement's response to those experiencing a mental health crisis. CIT programs enhance communication and identify mental health resources for assisting persons in crisis and ensure that law enforcement, who usually is the first responder, has all the necessary education and tools to safely resolve the crisis situation.

CIT programs provide law enforcement with intensive training, including:

- Learning from individuals and families impacted by mental illness, mental health professionals and experienced officers in the community.
- Verbal de-escalation skills.
- Scenario-based training on responding to mental health crises.

CIT gives law enforcement tools to perform their job more effectively and most importantly, safely. It helps keep people living with a mental illness out of jail and get into treatment where they are more likely to get on the road to recovery.

SUPPORT

- National Alliance on Mental Illness-California (NAMI-CA) (Sponsor)

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