



State of Wisconsin  
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3176/1  
MES:wlj

## 2017 SENATE BILL 558

November 20, 2017 - Introduced by Senators TESTIN and HANSEN, cosponsored by Representatives KRUG, ANDERSON, E. BROOKS, MURPHY, MURSAU, SINICKI, SKOWRONSKI and SPIROS. Referred to Committee on Revenue, Financial Institutions and Rural Issues.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 20.566 (1) (hp), 71.10 (5s) (c) and 71.10 (5s) (e); and **to create**  
2 71.10 (5fn) of the statutes; **relating to:** creating an individual income tax  
3 checkoff for donations to the Fire Fighters Memorial Association.

---

### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill creates an individual income tax checkoff for the Fire Fighters Memorial Association, the proceeds of which support the construction, improvement, and maintenance of the fire fighters memorial. The bill requires that an amount equal to the total amount of designations received, less the total cost of administering the income tax checkoff procedure, be transferred to the association.

Currently, there are eight permanent checkoffs to which taxpayers may make a designation. Current law prohibits the Department of Revenue from placing more than ten checkoffs, not including temporary checkoffs, on the income tax form. Current law also requires DOR to remove from the tax forms any checkoffs that do not generate at least an average of \$50,000 of designations per year over the most recent three-year period. Formerly, a temporary checkoff for the fire fighters memorial appeared on the tax forms, but it was removed by DOR because it failed to generate the required level of designations. The checkoff created in this bill would be a permanent checkoff.

**SENATE BILL 558**

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

---

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

1           **SECTION 1.** 20.566 (1) (hp) of the statutes is amended to read:

2           20.566 (1) (hp) *Administration of income tax checkoff voluntary payments.* The  
3 amounts in the schedule for the payment of all administrative costs, including data  
4 processing costs, incurred in administering ss. 71.10 (5), (5e), (5f), (5fm), (5fn), (5g),  
5 (5h), (5i), (5j), (5k), (5km), and (5m), and 71.30 (10). All moneys specified for deposit  
6 in this appropriation under ss. 71.10 (5) (h) 5., (5e) (h) 4., (5f) (i), (5fm) (i), (5fn) (i),  
7 (5g) (i), (5h) (i), (5i) (i), (5j) (i), (5k) (i), (5km) (i), and (5m) (i) and 71.30 (10) (i) and (11)  
8 (i) shall be credited to this appropriation account.

9           **SECTION 2.** 71.10 (5fn) of the statutes is created to read:

10           71.10 (**5fn**) FIRE FIGHTERS MEMORIAL CHECKOFF. (a) *Definitions.* In this  
11 subsection:

12           1. "Association" means the Firefighters Memorial Association.

13           2. "Department" means the department of revenue.

14           (b) *Voluntary payments.* 1. 'Designation on return.' Subject to sub. (5s), every  
15 individual filing an income tax return who has a tax liability or is entitled to a tax  
16 refund may designate on the return any amount of additional payment or any  
17 amount of a refund due that individual for the fire fighters memorial.

18           2. 'Designation added to tax owed.' If the individual owes any tax, the  
19 individual shall remit in full the tax due and the amount designated on the return  
20 for the fire fighters memorial when the individual files a tax return.

**SENATE BILL 558**

1           3. ‘Designation deducted from refund.’ Except as provided in par. (d), if the  
2 individual is owed a refund for that year after crediting under ss. 71.75 (9) and 71.80  
3 (3) and (3m), the department shall deduct the amount designated on the return for  
4 the fire fighters memorial from the amount of the refund.

5           (c) *Errors; failure to remit correct amount.* If an individual who owes taxes fails  
6 to remit an amount equal to or in excess of the total of the actual tax due, after error  
7 corrections, and the amount designated on the return for the fire fighters memorial:

8           1. The department shall reduce the designation for the fire fighters memorial  
9 to reflect the amount remitted in excess of the actual tax due, after error corrections,  
10 if the individual remitted an amount in excess of the actual tax due, after error  
11 corrections, but less than the total of the actual tax due, after error corrections, and  
12 the amount originally designated on the return for the fire fighters memorial.

13           2. The designation for the fire fighters memorial is void if the individual  
14 remitted an amount equal to or less than the actual tax due, after error corrections.

15           (d) *Errors; insufficient refund.* If an individual is owed a refund that does not  
16 equal or exceed the amount designated on the return for the fire fighters memorial,  
17 after crediting under ss. 71.75 (9) and 71.80 (3) and (3m) and after error corrections,  
18 the department shall reduce the designation for the fire fighters memorial to reflect  
19 the actual amount of the refund that the individual is otherwise owed, after crediting  
20 under ss. 71.75 (9) and 71.80 (3) and (3m) and after error corrections.

21           (e) *Conditions.* If an individual places any conditions on a designation for the  
22 fire fighters memorial, the designation is void.

23           (f) *Void designation.* If a designation for the fire fighters memorial is void, the  
24 department shall disregard the designation and determine amounts due, owed,  
25 refunded, and received without regard to the void designation.

**SENATE BILL 558****SECTION 2**

1           (g) *Tax return.* The secretary of revenue shall provide a place for the  
2 designations under this subsection on the individual income tax return.

3           (h) *Certification of amounts.* Annually, on or before September 15, the  
4 secretary of revenue shall certify to the department of administration and the state  
5 treasurer all of the following:

6           1. The total amount of the administrative costs, including data processing  
7 costs, incurred by the department in administering this subsection during the  
8 previous fiscal year.

9           2. The total amount received from all designations for the fire fighters  
10 memorial made by taxpayers during the previous fiscal year.

11           3. The net amount remaining after the administrative costs, including data  
12 processing costs, under subd. 1. are subtracted from the total received under subd.  
13 2.

14           (i) *Appropriations.* From the moneys received from designations for the fire  
15 fighters memorial, an amount equal to the sum of administrative expenses,  
16 including data processing costs, certified under par. (h) 1. shall be deposited in the  
17 general fund and credited to the appropriation account under s. 20.566 (1) (hp), and  
18 the net amount remaining that is certified under par. (h) 3. shall be transferred to  
19 the association for the construction, improvement, and maintenance of the fire  
20 fighters memorial.

21           (j) *Amounts subject to refund.* Amounts designated for the fire fighters  
22 memorial under this subsection are not subject to refund to the taxpayer unless the  
23 taxpayer submits information to the satisfaction of the department, within 18  
24 months after the date on which the taxes are due or the date on which the return is  
25 filed, whichever is later, that the amount designated is clearly in error. Any refund

**SENATE BILL 558**

1 granted by the department under this paragraph shall be deducted from the moneys  
2 received under this subsection in the fiscal year for which the refund is certified.

3 **SECTION 3.** 71.10 (5s) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 71.10 **(5s)** (c) Beginning in September 2014, based on the amounts certified by  
5 the secretary of revenue in August or September 2013, and 2014, as specified in subs.  
6 (5) (h), (5e) (h), (5f) (h), (5fn) (h), (5g) (h), (5h) (h), (5i) (h), (5j) (h), (5k) (h), (5km) (h),  
7 and (5m) (h), and for every 2-year period thereafter, the secretary of revenue shall  
8 rank the checkoffs based on the total amount of designations received for each  
9 checkoff for each 2-year period. For each 2-year period, beginning with 2014, the  
10 secretary of revenue shall rank every checkoff that is created under this section.

11 **SECTION 4.** 71.10 (5s) (e) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 71.10 **(5s)** (e) For any taxable year that begins after December 31, 2014,  
13 individuals may not make a designation for any checkoff which did not generate at  
14 least an average of \$50,000 of designations per year over the most recent 3-year  
15 period as certified by the secretary of revenue under subs. (5) (h) 3., (5e) (h) 2., (5f)  
16 (h) 2., (5fm) (h) 2., (5fn) (h) 2., (5g) (h) 2., (5i) (h) 2., (5j) (h) 2., (5k) (h) 2., (5km) (h)  
17 2., and (5m) (h) 2. Once a checkoff is affected by this paragraph, no further checkoffs  
18 may be designated to that checkoff in any taxable year.

19 **SECTION 5. Initial applicability.**

20 (1) This act first applies to taxable years beginning on January 1 of the year  
21 in which this subsection takes effect, except that if this subsection takes effect after  
22 July 31, this act first applies to taxable years beginning on January 1 of the year  
23 following the year in which this subsection takes effect.

24 (END)