**AP 9: CALIFORNIA VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS PROGRAM.**

Under existing law individuals are allowed to contribute amounts in excess of personal liability for the support of specified Voluntary Contribution Funds that are required to be on the personal income tax return.

However, the Voluntary Contribution Fund teeters on reaching the maximum number of organizations that can be carried on the Form 540. The focus has now become purging organization from the Tax Check Off.

SB-1207 California Voluntary Contribution Program.(2013-2014) previously attempted to design a system that established the California Contributions Program. SB 1207 attempted to implement many of the provisions of this legislative proposal.

**AP 9 has been significantly modified by Leg Counsel from the original version submitted for their review.** In its original form AP 9 was intended to address the growing concern there are many worthy charitable causes in California that may benefit from taxpayers’ voluntary charitable contributions on the tax form, but are not able to do so under the existing tax check-off process. The original version gives these taxpayers a much broader opportunity to donate to a variety of charitable organizations using the Form 540.

It also proposes the modification of the existing Voluntary Contribution Fund process by establishing the **California Contributions Program**. The result would be two funds operating within the tax check off process.

The intent of the original version was to retain all existing funds currently participating in the Voluntary Contribution Program on the personal income tax return form until their **repeal dates**. As repeal dates occur funds that wish to continue participating in the tax check off would transition to the **California Contribution Program** prior to the 2021 tax filing season.

There would also be organizations that would continue to participate in the Voluntary Contribution Fund prior to the 2021 tax filing season. These funds represent the two state agencies participating in the Tax Check Off as well as the two first responder organizations that use the Tax Check Off donations received to maintain monuments at the State Capitol. It is the intent of this proposal that the dates of repeal for the **California Senior Citizen Advocacy Fund**, **California Special Senior Fund**, the **California Firefighters’ Memorial Fund**, and the **California Peace Officer Memorial Foundation Fund** be retained as **separate voluntary contribution designations** on the personal income tax return Form 540. Each of these funds would be exempt from minimum contribution amounts. These four funds would represent the Voluntary Contribution Funds. They would be the only members of the fund and may request to be removed by petitioning the Legislature.

The Legislature would review the existing process for screening and approving applicants as well as determining if a qualified applicant is no longer is eligible to receive voluntary contributions through the tax return, revoking the eligibility of the qualified applicant from the program, and notify the FTB of the revocation to determine where that process should be performed in the future.