

CHAPTER 233

AN ACT concerning private contracts for the collection of certain debts owed to the government and amending P.L.1995, c.9, P.L.2000, c.126, P.L.1983, c.208, and N.J.S.40A:4-39.

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

1. Section 6 of P.L.1995, c.9 (C.2B:19-6) is amended to read as follows:

C.2B:19-6 Transfer of matters involving the collection of monies.

6. a. All matters involving the collection of monies in the Superior Court and Tax Court which have not been resolved in accordance with an order of the court may be transferred, pursuant to court rule, to the comprehensive enforcement program for such action as may be appropriate. As an alternative to, or in addition to, the use of the comprehensive enforcement program, the Administrative Director of the Courts may contract with a private agency or firm to collect any outstanding monies payable to the Superior Court, the Tax Court, or the municipal courts. Outstanding monies payable to a municipal court means monies owed after a final determination of guilt by a municipal court and only when the municipal court has exhausted all judicial enforcement remedies permitted by law or court rule. The use of private collection agencies to collect outstanding monies payable to the Superior Court, the Tax Court and municipal courts shall be governed by rules and procedures adopted by the Supreme Court. The Administrative Director of the Courts may authorize the assessment of an administrative fee by a private agency or firm not to exceed 22% of the amount collected to be paid by the defendant to the private collection agency to pay for the costs of collection.

b. (1) A municipal court may request that all matters which have not been resolved in accordance with an order of that court be transferred to the comprehensive enforcement program in accordance with the provisions of section 9 of P.L.1995, c.9 (C.2B:19-9) for such action as may be appropriate. All monies collected through the comprehensive enforcement program which result from the enforcing of orders transferred from any municipal court shall be subject to the 25% deduction authorized pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1995, c.9 (C.2B:19-4) except for monies collected in connection with the enforcement of orders related to parking violations.

(2) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2009, c.233)

c. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission may refer matters of surcharges imposed administratively under the New Jersey Merit Rating Plan in accordance with the provisions of section 6 of P.L.1983, c.65 (C.17:29A-35) which have not been satisfied to the comprehensive enforcement program in accordance with the procedures established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1997, c.280 (C.2B:19-10) to be reduced to judgment and for such additional action as may be appropriate. All monies collected through the comprehensive enforcement program which result from the collection of these surcharge monies shall be subject to the 25% deduction authorized pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1995, c.9 (C.2B:19-4).

d. (1) At the request of the Public Defender, the Clerk of the Superior Court shall refer every unsatisfied lien, filed by the Public Defender, to the comprehensive enforcement program for collection. All monies collected through the comprehensive enforcement program which result from the collection of these liens shall be subject to the deduction authorized pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1995, c.9 (C.2B:19-4).

(2) Upon satisfaction of a public defender lien through the comprehensive enforcement program, the comprehensive enforcement program shall notify the Clerk of the Superior

Court within 10 days of satisfaction and the satisfaction of the lien shall be entered in the Superior Court Judgment Index.

2. Section 37 of P.L.2000, c.126 (C.40:23-6.53) is amended to read as follows:

C.40:23-6.53 Contracts for collection of delinquent fees, fines.

37. The governing body of any county may enter into a contract with a private agency or firm for the purpose of collecting delinquent fees, fines, costs, surcharges, and other penalties or assessments imposed, after a final determination of guilt, by a central municipal court established pursuant to subsection e. of N.J.S.2B:12-1. The use of private agencies or firms to collect delinquent fees, fines, costs, surcharges and other penalties or assessments imposed by a central municipal court shall be in accordance with rules or procedures adopted by the Supreme Court. Any such contract shall be made pursuant to the provisions of the "Local Public Contracts Law," P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A:11-1 et seq.). The governing body of any county may authorize the assessment of a fee by a private agency or firm not to exceed 22% of the amount collected to be paid by the debtor to the private agency or firm to pay for the costs of collection.

3. Section 1 of P.L.1983, c.208 (C.40:48-5a) is amended to read as follows:

C.40:48-5a Contract for collection services between municipality, private entity.

1. The governing body of any municipality may enter into contract with a private agency or firm for the purpose of collecting delinquent fees, fines, costs, surcharges and other penalties or assessments imposed, after a final determination of guilt, by a municipal court. The governing body of any municipality may proceed only when the court has exhausted all judicial enforcement remedies permitted by law or court rule and the Administrative Director of the Courts has authorized collection through a private agency or firm. The use of private agencies or firms to collect delinquent fees, fines, costs, surcharges, and other penalties or assessments imposed by a municipal court shall be in accordance with rules or procedures adopted by the Supreme Court. Any such contract shall be made and awarded pursuant to the provisions of the "Local Public Contracts Law," P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A:11-1 et seq.). The governing body of any municipality may authorize the assessment of a fee by a private agency or firm not to exceed 22% of the amount collected to be paid by the debtor to the private agency or firm to pay for the costs of collection.

4. N.J.S.40A:4-39 is amended to read as follows:

Anticipation of dedicated revenues.

40A:4-39. a. In the budget of any local unit, dedicated revenues anticipated during the fiscal year from any dog tax, dog license, revenues collected pursuant to N.J.S.18A:39-1.2, solid fuel license, sinking fund for term bonds, bequest, escheat, federal grant, motor vehicle fine dedicated to road repairs, relocation costs deposited into a revolving relocation assistance fund established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1987, c.98 (C.20:4-4.1a), fee revenues collected in connection with recreation programs operated pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1999, c.292 (C.40:48-2.56), receipts from franchise assessments levied pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1995, c.173 (C.40A:12A-53) to be retained by the municipality, refund payments from a joint insurance fund deposited into a joint insurance revolving fund established pursuant to section 12 of P.L.1996, c.113 (C.40A:10-36.2), fee revenues

collected in connection with the "Attorney Identification Card Program" pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2009, c.11 (C.40A:4-22.2), fee revenues imposed on delinquent amounts owed to the county or municipality and collected pursuant to section 37 of P.L.2000, c.126 (C.40:23-6.53) (as amended by section 2 of P.L.2009, c.233) or section 1 of P.L.1983, c.208 (C.40:48-5a) (as amended by section 3 of P.L.2009, c.233), and, subject to the prior written consent of the director, other items of like character when the revenue is not subject to reasonably accurate estimate in advance, may be included in said budget by annexing to said budget a statement in substantially the following form:

"The dedicated revenues anticipated during the year from (here insert one or more of the sources above, as the case may be) are hereby anticipated as revenue and are hereby appropriated for the purposes to which said revenue is dedicated by statute or other legal requirement."

b. Dedicated revenues included in accordance with this section shall be available for expenditure by the local unit as and when received in cash during the fiscal year. The inclusion of such dedicated revenues shall be subject to the approval of the director, who may require such explanatory statements or data in connection therewith as the director deems advisable for the information and protection of the public.

5. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 16, 2010.