

HOUSE No. 2813

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Carlos González

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to creating the massachusetts against discrimination fund.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>	<i>1/17/2023</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2023</i>
<i>Orlando Ramos</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>2/13/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 2813

By Representative González of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2813) of Carlos González and others for legislation to establish voluntary contribution check-off boxes on state tax returns to provide financial assistance to the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination. Revenue.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2917 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to creating the massachusetts against discrimination fund.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 10 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 35SSS the following section:-

3 Section 35TTT. There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth
4 a separate fund, to be known as the Massachusetts Against Discrimination Fund. The fund shall
5 be used by the commission against discrimination to offset costs associated with its investigation,
6 prosecution and adjudication of claims of unlawful discrimination, and to assist with its training
7 of public and private entities and individuals to prevent and remediate unlawful discrimination
8 consistent with sections one through ten of chapter 151B. The commission may use the fund for

9 necessary and reasonable administrative and personnel costs related to the specific purposes of
10 the fund.

11 The fund shall consist of all revenues received by the commonwealth pursuant to the
12 voluntary check-off donation indicated on the department of revenue's annual income tax return
13 authorized by section 6O of chapter 62 and from public and private sources as gifts, grants and
14 donations authorized by section 3(14) of chapter 151B to further eradicate unlawful
15 discrimination in the commonwealth. Funds deposited and expended from the fund shall not be
16 assessed any indirect costs.

17 The state treasurer shall deposit amounts in the fund in accordance with section 34 of
18 chapter 29 in a manner that will secure the highest interest rate available consistent with the
19 safety of the fund and with the requirement that all amounts on deposit shall be available for
20 immediate withdrawal at any time. The fund may be expended by the commission against
21 discrimination without further appropriation for the purposes stated in this section and any funds
22 remaining at the end of any fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund and shall be available
23 for use in subsequent fiscal years.

24 SECTION 2. Chapter 62 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
25 section 6N the following section:-

26 Section 6O. A person filing an individual or a joint return may voluntarily contribute all
27 or part of any refund to which they are entitled, or may voluntarily add an amount on to any
28 amount due, to be credited to the Massachusetts Against Discrimination Fund established in
29 section 35TTT of chapter 10.

30 A contribution under this section may be made with respect to any taxable year at the
31 time of filing a return of the tax established by this chapter for such taxable year. The
32 commissioner shall prescribe the manner in which the contribution shall be made on the face of
33 the return required by section 5 of chapter 62C; provided, however, that the commissioner shall
34 assure that taxpayers filing any such forms are made clearly aware of their ability to make the
35 contributions provided for by this section.

36 The commissioner shall annually report the total amount designated under this section to
37 the state treasurer, who shall credit such amount to the Massachusetts Against Discrimination
38 Fund.