

MAY 26 2011

STATE SENATOR
MICHAEL J. STACK
5TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



Senate of Pennsylvania

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TO: All Senators

DATE: May 25, 2011

FROM: Senator Michael J. Stack *MTS*
Senator John C. Rafferty, Jr. *JCR*

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship

Pennsylvania courts are owed \$1.6 billion in court costs, fines, fees, and restitution. We will introduce two bills to give people an incentive to pay their outstanding court costs, fines, fees, and other charges. These initiatives will help Pennsylvania Courts collect money they are owed and provide Pennsylvania with a source of revenue to balance the state budget. Both bills will give courts another tool to collect the \$1.6 billion they are owed.

1. The first bill would prohibit the renewal of a driver's license for anyone that has delinquent costs, fines, fees, and restitution imposed by a court of this Commonwealth. Once a person has paid their fines, surcharges, fees, or penalties, the courts shall send a written or electronic notification to PennDOT that a person has paid all fines, surcharges, fees, and penalties owed to the courts. Then, PennDOT may renew a person's driver's license.
2. The second bill would allow Pennsylvania courts to attach the income, state income tax returns, or lottery winnings of people that have delinquent court costs, fines, fees, and restitution. The legislation allows the courts and offenders to enter into repayment plans or other arrangements to prevent income attachment. Income attachment will not be an option when a party shows and the court finds that there is good cause not to require the attachment.

If you have any questions, please contact our offices. If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please call Senator Stack's office at 7-9608.