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COMMITTEE:
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Readshaw 

DATE: March 7, 2012

SUBJECT: Collection of unpaid fines by the Boards and Commissions under the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs.

Currently, more than one third of the fines assessed by a board or commission under the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) since 2008 remain outstanding adding up to approximately \$2.7 million. The boards and commissions currently have little recourse and lack the tools they need to collect monies due.

The boards and commissions under BPOA are not funded through tax dollars. They are funded through licensing fees, and fines and penalties. Although fines collected by the boards and commissions are not included in the General Fund, they are used for operating expenses. If the boards and commissions are not able to collect the unpaid fines, a larger financial burden is then placed on the licensees through increased license fees.

This legislation will allow the boards and commissions to file a judgment in the amount of the unpaid fines and related costs in the Commonwealth Court. The judgment would then be reported on the person's credit report which would enhance the possibility of collection. This procedure is currently being utilized by our Common Pleas Courts with criminal fines. The boards and commissions would also be able to deny, suspend or revoke a license, registration or certification for failure to pay a fine.

Providing the boards and commissions under BPOA the opportunity and tools needed to collect fines will result in a cost savings to the licensees and hold those responsible for the fines accountable.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact me at (717) 783-0411.