FLOYD PROZANSKI STATE SENATOR

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Vote Explanation HB 4210

I voted for HB 4210 because it has been shown that many individuals without ability to pay their original fines are pushed into a revolving cycle of debt when their fine is increased by additional costs and fees for failure to pay. This in turn results in the court suspending their driver's license for failure to pay. Unfortunately, many of the same individuals find themselves needing to continue to drive to work, to the grocery store, and transporting their family members to appointments or school. If they are stopped for another traffic violation, they will usually receive a citation for driving while suspended, adding further to their debt in one or more courts.

HB 4210 will keep a person's driving privileges from being suspended exclusively for failure to pay court fines. It must be stated that a court can, through a show cause proceeding, require a person to return to court to discuss why they are not making their scheduled payments. If the person fails to appear for their show cause proceeding, the court is authorized to suspend their license for failure to appear. The goal is to have courts continue to work with individuals who are not able to make timely payments and to adjust those payments based on the individual's ability to pay at any given time, thereby reserving suspension of driving privileges to cases where defendants fails to appear in court to discuss their failure to pay the fine(s). Lastly, states that have adopted a similar policies have not experienced in a loss in their rate of collections.

Floyd Prozanski