



SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

House Bill 236 Printer's No. 202

Prime Sponsor: Representative Corbin
Committee: Judiciary

SYNOPSIS:

This bill amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) to permit courts to order the attachment of wages in order to collect court-imposed restitution, fines, and costs.

SUMMARY:

Provides that an order of attachment of wages, salaries, and commissions for support shall have first priority and for restitution, fines, and costs shall have second priority.

Permits the use of credit cards and automatic periodic deductions from a bank account (with the agreement of the account owner) for the payment of restitution, fines, and costs.

Permits a court at sentencing to assign an amount not greater than 25% of the defendant's gross salary, wages, or other earnings to be used for the payment of court costs, restitution, or fines.

Prohibits an employer from discharging, refusing to hire, or taking other adverse action against a person based on an order for the attachment of wages.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This bill is effective in 180 days.

BILL HISTORY:

Passed the House of Representatives on March 20, 2017 by a vote of 179-18.

COMMENT:

Current law (42 Pa.C.S. § 8127) generally exempts from attachment the wages, salaries, and commissions of employees while in the hands of employers, but there are several exceptions. These exceptions include child support, board for four weeks or less, and a judgment-creditor landlord. Restitution, fines, and costs are currently the lowest priority for attachment of wages. Courts hold hearings in the event of a default to determine the defendant's ability to pay.

Prepared by: Cawley 6/29/2017