

# Pennsylvania's Perspective on Violation Enforcement Reciprocity

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# Overview of the PA Turnpike System

The logo for E-ZPass, featuring the text "E-ZPass" in a stylized, italicized purple font with a registered trademark symbol.

- ◆ Operated by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC)
- ◆ System runs 552 miles in length from the Delaware River to the Ohio border with several north/south extensions
- ◆ E-ZPass is accepted at all toll plazas
- ◆ Toll-By-Plate cashless system implemented January 2016 at Delaware River Bridge and deploying September 2016 on Beaver Valley Expressway
- ◆ Overview from FY15
  - ◆ Total Vehicles per Year = 198.5 million
  - ◆ Total Vehicles per Day = 543,934
  - ◆ Net Revenue = \$932.1 million
  - ◆ Total Fare Collection Facilities = 68



# Existing Toll Enforcement



- ◆ Current PA Law (Act 89 - 2013) allows the PTC to pursue toll evaders who intentionally or knowingly take an affirmative action in an attempt to evade tolls. The outcome is a fine + toll and not a registration suspension.
- ◆ There is no enabling legislation to allow PA to suspend or deny the registration of motorists who fail to pay tolls on the Turnpike or other out-state-toll systems.
- ◆ Due to this legislative limitation, PTC can only refer uncollected tolls to collection agencies.
- ◆ Without enabling legislation, PennDOT/PTC does not have the authority to enter into meaningful enforcement reciprocity agreements with other states.

# Impact of Existing Enforcement



- ◆ At the end of FY15, the PTC had a total of \$33 million in uncollected tolls; \$30 million of which was finally collected over the course of several of months.
- ◆ Approximately \$3 million remains in uncollected toll dollars from last fiscal year.
- ◆ The top states with violation dollars owed as of November 2015:
  - ◆ New Jersey
  - ◆ Ohio
  - ◆ New York
  - ◆ Maryland
  - ◆ Florida
  - ◆ Texas
  - ◆ Virginia

# Current Impact\*

6+ Open Violations	# Plates	Tolls	Admin	Total
PA Registered	8,000	\$4.1 M	\$7.2 M	\$11.3 M
Non-PA Registered	4,700	\$2.8 M	\$3.1 M	\$5.9 M
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,700</b>	<b>\$6.9 M</b>	<b>\$10.3 M</b>	<b>\$17.2 M</b>

  

\$500+ Open Notices	# Plates	Tolls	Admin	Total
PA Registered	5,200	\$3.9 M	\$6.5 M	\$10.4 M
Non-PA Registered	3,900	\$3.0 M	\$2.8 M	\$5.8 M
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,100</b>	<b>\$6.9 M</b>	<b>\$9.3 M</b>	<b>\$16.2 M</b>

\* Numbers as of 12/17/2015. Values are pre-collection agency efforts.



# Proposed Enabling Legislation

## ◆ Senate Bill 1086

- ◆ Enforcement reciprocity enabling legislation was introduced in December 2015
- ◆ Introduced by the Senate Transportation Committee Chair – Senator John Rafferty
- ◆ Referred to Senate Transportation Committee
- ◆ Voted out of committee January 20, 2016

## ◆ House Bill 1782

- ◆ Similar to SB 1086

## ◆ Legislative goals

- ◆ Enable PA to suspend the registration of motorists who fail to pay tolls on the Turnpike
- ◆ Enable PA to enter into enforcement reciprocity agreements with other states
- ◆ With a reciprocity agreement, enable PA to suspend the registration of PA motorists who fail to pay tolls in other states



# Proposed Enabling Legislation

## ◆ Threshold

- ◆ A vehicle owner has defaulted in payment of six or more violations OR has unpaid tolls/fees collectively reaching a minimum of \$500, regardless of the number of violations.

## ◆ Penalty

- ◆ Suspension of vehicle registration, which continues until PA receives notice that the toll violations are paid, dismissed, reversed on appeal or canceled, or the owner begins installment payments.

## ◆ Provision of Due Process

- ◆ Provides due process and appeal protections for both in-state and out-of-state motorists.



# Areas of Discussion

- ◆ \$600 maximum in non-toll fees
- ◆ Admin fees
- ◆ 6+ Violations / \$500 minimum accumulation
- ◆ Suspension of registration and renewal of registration
- ◆ “Violator – Violation State” relationship vs. “Violator – Home State” relationship





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