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Senate Bill 479
Senate Committee on Transportation
April 1, 2003

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Ginny Lewis, Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Senate Bill 479 requires the Department to not renew a vehicle registration if a court has filed a notice of non-payment with the Department. We envision this process to be similar to a current program for parking tickets. Essentially a court will electronically transmit certain data elements, to include the license plate number to the Department. We will "flag" the registration record thereby prohibiting any renewal to occur until the issue has been resolved and cleared with the court.

In the event a vehicle registration is "flagged", the renewal notice sent to the customer will provide the name of the court and amount of the outstanding obligation. The customer is instructed that the registration cannot be renewed until the fine is paid with the court.

As drafted, this bill allows the Department to work with the various courts to guide them through the requirements for electronic exchange of the necessary data elements.

I'd be happy to answer any questions of the committee.