

## ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT

**Date:** August 18, 2015  
**To:** Members, California State Assembly  
**From:** Rex D. Frazier, President  
Michael A. Gunning, Vice President  
Kara Cross, General Counsel  
Manolo P. Morales, Senior Legislative Advocate  
**Re: SB 405 (Hertzberg) Failure to Appear in Court: Fines  
As Amended August 17, 2015**



STATE FARM  
FARMERS  
LIBERTY  
MUTUAL  
INSURANCE  
PROGRESSIVE  
ALLSTATE  
MERCURY  
NATIONWIDE

### PIFC Position-Support

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The Personal Insurance Federation of California, representing seven of the nation's largest insurance companies (State Farm, Farmers, Liberty Mutual Insurance, Progressive, Allstate, Mercury and Nationwide) who collectively write a majority of the personal line auto and home insurance in California, **supports SB 405: Failure to Appear in Court: Fines, by Senator Robert Hertzberg.**

The goal of SB 405 is to improve access to justice for court users challenging traffic infractions. The bill ensures that Californians, even those of limited means, have a realistic opportunity to challenge citations. This bill creates consistency in courts throughout the state by prohibiting courts from requiring people with "Fail to Appear" or "Fail to Pay" citations to pay full bail before seeing a judge, including fines, penalties, and assessments.

PIFC member companies believe that having one's license suspended for nonpayment or late payment of fines and bail creates an undue hardship on people that commit nonpublic, nonsafety violations, particularly low income individuals. We believe that SB 405 would restore drivers licenses suspended as a result of nonviolent offenses for the past eight years. The bill will have an effect on the 4.2 million California drivers who have had their licenses suspended for not paying what started out as minor traffic violations or for missing a deadline to appear in court.

SB 405 ensures more people will be able to find and keep employment and, thus, be able to fulfill their required payments and maintain their insurance coverage. Ultimately, this will not only benefit the courts, the counties, the state, and the programs that receive funds from the payment of traffic tickets, but also enhance public safety by allowing these individuals to maintain their auto insurance.

For this reason, PIFC **supports SB 405, by Senator Robert Herzberg and urges your "aye" vote.** If you have any questions regarding PIFC's position, please contact Michael A. Gunning at (916) 442-6646.

cc: Senator Robert Hertzberg, Author  
Manny Leon, Assembly Transportation Committee  
Robert Spiegel, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Camille Wagner, Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor  
Robert Herrell, Legislative Director, California Department of Insurance