

From: Ssnorton31@aol.com
Sent: 6/11/2015 1:36:50 PM
To: bill@taylorscheuse.com
Cc: wbusser721@aol.com; mhanna@aikenstandard.com;
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winky@scpolicycouncil.org; Robert@RobertAriail.com;
glynm.moore@augustachronicle.com; stateeditor@thestate.com
Subject: Re: Rep. Bill Taylor link: quality of civil asset forfeiture laws by state,
(...

Mr. Taylor,

Please do look into this matter. It looks as though South Carolina is one of the few states that have rated "F" in this matter of seizure/forfeiture of private property.

Thanks for any help you and any of your colleagues may be able to provide in regard to this matter.

Sherrill Norton
544 Woods Bend Drive
Aiken, SC 29803-7712
803-649-3269

In a message dated 6/11/2015 1:13:48 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, wbusser721@aol.com writes:

Thank you for your response and interest correcting the forfeiture problem.

Bill Busser

TO: cc & bcc

Please read the link in Rep. Bill Taylor's email. The Georgia and South Carolina ratings are as follows:

Georgia D-

The standard of proof is extremely low; depending on the property the government must establish probable cause or show a preponderance of the evidence to forfeit property. The burden is on the property owner to prove his innocence to get his property back. Law enforcement keeps 100% of forfeiture funds, but they must be used for law enforcement activities. The legislature recently passed minor transparency reforms, which were signed into law by the governor.

South Carolina F

The standard of proof is extremely low; the government must only show probable cause to forfeit property. The burden is on the property owner to prove his innocence to get his property back. Law enforcement keeps 75% of forfeiture funds, 20% goes to prosecutors and the remaining

5% goes to the general fund. There are no collecting or reporting requirements.

Please see the section in the Rep. Bill Taylor link for your state rating: Civil Asset Forfeiture: Grading the States
<<http://www.scribd.com/doc/267761329>>

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Taylor <bill@taylorschouse.com>

To: wbusser721 <wbusser721@aol.com>

Sent: Thu, Jun 11, 2015 10:27 am

Subject: RE: Enforcement Hit Headwinds. Moves to limit confiscation stall amid pressure from prosecutors, police

Mr. Busser:

Thanks for sharing the article. This is definitely a problem! I had just completed reading this report (<http://reason.com/blog/2015/06/09/this-map-details-whether-asset-forfeiture>) when I received your e-mail. I plan to investigate SC's laws on forfeiture to determine how improvements can be made.

Rep. Bill Taylor

Chairman, Higher Education Committee
Education & Public Works Committee
Member, Legislative Government Oversight
Committee
South Carolina House of Representatives

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Sent: 6/11/2015 10:07:40 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time

Subj: WSJ: Enforcement Hit Headwinds. Moves to limit confiscation stall amid pressure
from prosecutors, police

TO: Aiken Standard

Civil asset forfeiture violates the spirit of the 4th, 5th and 6th amendments to the Constitution. (see amendments below). The WSJ stated "*Efforts to limit seizures of money, homes and other property from people who may never be convicted of a crime are stalling out amid a wave of pressure from prosecutors and police.*" It would be interesting to see an article on how the Aiken county area and South Carolina compare to other forfeiture programs. What portion of their law-enforcement budget is provided by