

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Close, Dingfelder, Kruse, Roblan, Prozanski
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Mike Schmidt, Counsel
Meeting Dates: 4/16, 4/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Increases penalty for initiating a false report to Class A misdemeanor from a Class C misdemeanor. Requires court to assess the costs of responding and investigating to false report to be paid by convicted person.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fake emergency calls put the public at risk by diverting emergency resources away from where they may actually be needed, and put the public to great expense

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: False reports not only pull law enforcement and emergency services away from real emergencies that may need their help, which puts the public at risk, but they also cost a lot of money. Senate Bill 834 would make the false reporter bear the financial responsibility for their actions as well as increasing the penalty to provide more deterrence for those that may consider trying to get attention in this fashion.