HB 2638 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

Prepared By: Oliver Droppers, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 1/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands and modifies membership of the Alcohol and Drug Commission (Commission). Specifies the Director of the Commission is to serve as a nonvoting chairperson.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued. FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Specifies at least 75 percent of Governor appointed members must represent public health and health care stakeholder groups. Specifies up to 25 percent of Governor appointed members shall represent local law enforcement or criminal justice stakeholder groups. Restores appointment of a circuit court judge as a nonvoting member.

BACKGROUND:

The Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission (Commission) was created by the Legislative Assembly in 2009. It was charged with "producing a plan for the funding and effective delivery of alcohol and drug treatment and prevention services." Its member composition and specific duties are strictly dictated by statute, which ensures a certain cross-section of representation and may impair the flexibility the Commission needs to be effective. The Commission varies in size with 20 commissioners as of 2019. In 2015, Senate Bill 951 altered the Commission to simplify its objectives and resolve long-standing quorum issues to improve its effectiveness and ability to establish priorities and policies for prevention and treatment services for alcohol and drug abuse. In 2018, the Legislative Assembly passed HB 4137 requiring the Commission to develop preliminary recommendations for the scope and framework of the comprehensive addiction, prevention, treatment, and recovery plan to be completed by July 1, 2020. The measure specified that the Commission is to review and update the comprehensive plan every two years, directing the Governor to appoint a director of the Commission and established the functions and powers of the director.

House Bill 2638 changes the membership of the Alcohol and Drug Commission and requires the director of the Commission to serve as the chairperson.