

**SB 933 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Rules**

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**Prepared By:** Josh Nasbe, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 5/16

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires that form or document issued by public body asking person to identify person's race or ethnicity allow person to select multiple races or ethnicities.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Ethnicity indicates a population group with a common national or cultural tradition. Race refers to physical characteristics which typically result from genetic ancestry. The U.S. Census Bureau defines race as a person's self-identification with one or more social groups, and uses ethnicity to determine whether a person is of Hispanic origin or not. The U.S. Census Bureau first allowed respondents to choose more than one racial category in 2000. Census data for 2013 shows roughly two percent of Americans chose two or more racial categories when asked about their race. A 2015 Pew Research study estimated that nearly 7 percent of the U.S. adult population could be considered multiracial, and noted significant growth in mixed-race couples since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down laws prohibiting mixed-race marriage in 1958. These studies do not include analysis of the ethnic groups with which individuals identify.

Senate Bill 933-A requires a form or document issued by a public body asking a person to identify the person's race or ethnicity allow respondents to select multiple races or ethnicities.