

## SB 615 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Judiciary

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/9

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Modifies definitions of offenses of organizing a speed racing event and reckless driving. Deletes definition of speed racing event. Reduces penalty for offense of organizing a speed racing event from a Class C felony to a Class A misdemeanor in certain circumstances. Adds reckless driving to offenses for which property used or intended to be used to commit or facilitate prohibited conduct may be subject to criminal forfeiture. Applies to conduct occurring on or after effective date. Takes effect on 91st day following sine die.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

##### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-1 Replaces measure. Modifies definition of offense of organizing a speed racing event to include a person who places an obstruction or barricade on a highway or assists another person in doing so to facilitate, or to aid another person participating in, speed racing or reckless driving. Deletes definition of speed racing event.. Reduces penalty for offense of organizing a speed racing event from a Class C felony to a Class A misdemeanor unless the defendant has been convicted of the same crime within the last five years. Modifies definition of offense of reckless driving to include behavior associated with speed racing. Adds reckless driving to offenses for which property used or intended to be used to commit or facilitate prohibited conduct may be subject to criminal forfeiture. Takes effect on 91st day following sine die.

##### **BACKGROUND:**

Under current law, speed racing on a highway is a Class A traffic violation, and organizing a speed racing event is a Class C felony. Reckless driving is a Class A misdemeanor.

Senate Bill 615 would change the definition of the offense of organizing a speed racing event to include persons who facilitate, as well as persons who aid another individual who is participating in, speed racing or reckless driving by placing an obstruction or barricade in a highway, as well as persons who preplan or coordinate activity associated with speed racing or reckless driving. The measure would reduce the penalty for the offense to a Class A misdemeanor unless a person has been convicted of the same offense within a five-year period, in which case it would remain a Class C felony. SB 615 would also change the definition of the offense of reckless driving to include behavior associated with speed racing. The measure would add reckless driving to the list of offenses for which property used for or intended to commit the crime may be subject to criminal forfeiture.