SB 360 A   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date:	04/18/17
Action:	Do pass with amendments. Refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng).
Vote:	5-0-0-0
Yeas:	5 - Dembrow, Linthicum, Manning Jr, Prozanski, Thatcher
Fiscal:	Fiscal impact issued
Revenue:	Revenue impact issued
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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs county governing bodies to create community service exchange program to allow persons on parole or post-prison supervision to perform community service in lieu of payment for certain delinquent fees or debts and supervision fees. Specifies procedures for community service exchange program. Defines key terms. Adds community service exchange program as alternative to payment of attorney fees.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
- Need for a community service exchange program
- Impediments to offenders' reintegration into the community
- Applicable costs and fees

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 360-A directs the governing body of each county to create a community service exchange program through rulemaking. The community service exchange program would allow a person who served a sentence within the Department of Corrections and is on parole or post-prison supervision to enter into a written agreement with a community-based organization to perform community service in lieu of payment of delinquent fees or debts and supervision fees. It allows a local supervisory authority to determine whether to participate in this program and whether a community-based organization qualifies for the community service exchange program. It also allows for participation in the community service exchange program as an alternative to payment of a court-appointed attorney's fees. SB 360-A defines key terms, such as delinquent fees or debts. It prohibits waiver of fees for restitution, child support obligations, traffic offense fines and the minimum felony and misdemeanor conviction fine. Finally, SB 360-A specifies the procedures for administration of this program.