

SB 581 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Changes recklessly operating an unmanned aircraft from a Class A violation to a Class A misdemeanor. Prescribes minimum fine of \$1,000 and minimum term of imprisonment of two days. Directs the court to prohibit violator from operating an unmanned aircraft for one year upon first conviction and five years for a second or subsequent conviction. Requires forfeiture of unmanned aircraft upon a second or subsequent conviction.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The 2016 legislature created a Class A violation for the reckless operation of an unmanned aircraft, which includes using an unmanned aircraft to recklessly direct a laser at an aircraft while the aircraft is in the air, crash into an aircraft while the aircraft is in the air, or prevent the takeoff or landing of an aircraft.

Senate Bill 581 makes operating an unmanned aircraft in such a manner a Class A misdemeanor and prescribes the minimum fine and term of imprisonment for such a violation.