

**SB 933 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Business and General Government**

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/28

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Provides that form or document issued by public body asking person to identify person's race or ethnicity include specified categories of race or ethnicity and allow person to select multiple races or ethnicities.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-1 Removes requirement for form or document issued by public body to include specified categories of race or ethnicity.

**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 United State 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. 2013 census data shows roughly 2 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 United State 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.

There is currently no uniform requirement for the races or ethnicities that must be included on public forms or documents. Senate Bill 933 establishes a uniform list of races and ethnicities for all forms or documents issued by a public body, and requires the form or document to allow respondents to select multiple races or ethnicities.