

SB 780 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 3/22, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates crime of unlawful fender height modification. Specifies that offense is Class C traffic violation unless commission of the offense contributes to an accident, in which case the offense is a Class A traffic violation. Applies to conduct occurring on or after effective date.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

- 1 Clarifies that offense of unlawful fender height modifications does not apply if a motor vehicle is carrying a load that causes the rear fender to be four or more inches lower than the front fender.
- 2 Clarifies that offense of unlawful fender height modifications does not apply if a motor vehicle is carrying a load that causes the rear fender to be four or more inches lower than the front fender. Removes language making offense applicable to vehicles operated on premises open to the public.

BACKGROUND:

The practice of modifying a vehicle so that the front fender is substantially higher than the back fender is sometimes called the "Cali Lean," the "Tennessee Tilt," or the "Carolina squat." Critics of this type of vehicle modification say that it poses safety risks to other drivers.

Senate Bill 780 creates the offense of unlawful fender height modifications. A person commits the offense by operating a vehicle on a highway or premises open to the public that has been modified so that the front fender height is four or more inches greater than the height of the rear fender.