

SB 780 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 5/15, 5/18

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.

Fiscal: Minimal fiscal impact.

Revenue: Minimal revenue impact.

Senate vote: Ayes, 16; Nays, 12; Excused, 2.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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 A creates the offense of unlawful fender height modifications. A person commits the offense by operating a vehicle on a highway that has been modified so that the front fender height is four or more inches greater than the height of the rear fender. The offense does not apply if a vehicle is carrying a load that causes the rear fender to be four or more inches lower than the front fender.