

**SB 615 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Sen. Meek

**Senate Committee On Judiciary**

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**Action Date:** 03/22/23

**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 4-1-0-0

**Yeas:** 4 - Gelser Blouin, Manning Jr, Prozanski, Thatcher

**Nays:** 1 - Linthicum

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** Has minimal revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Lucy Ohlsen, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/9, 3/22

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Modifies definition of offense of organizing a speed racing event to include a person who places an obstruction or barricade on a highway or assists another person in doing so to facilitate, or to aid another person participating in, speed racing or reckless driving. Deletes definition of speed racing event. Reduces penalty for offense of organizing a speed racing event from a Class C felony to a Class A misdemeanor unless the defendant has been convicted of the same crime within the last five years. Modifies definition of offense of reckless driving to include behavior associated with speed racing. Adds reckless driving to offenses for which property used or intended to be used to commit or facilitate prohibited conduct may be subject to criminal forfeiture. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Recent speed racing events
- Ability of law enforcement to respond
- Application of criminal forfeiture

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Replaces the measure.

**BACKGROUND:**

Under current law, speed racing on a highway is a Class A traffic violation, and organizing a speed racing event is a Class C felony. Reckless driving is a Class A misdemeanor.

Senate Bill 615 A changes the definition of the offense of organizing a speed racing event to include persons who place an obstruction or barricade on a highway, or assist someone else in doing so, to facilitate or help individuals involved in speed racing or reckless driving. It reduces the penalty for the offense of organizing a speed racing event to a Class A misdemeanor unless the accused has been convicted of the same crime in the last five years, in which case, the crime remains a Class C felony. The measure also changes the definition of the offense of reckless driving to include conduct associated with speed racing, and adds reckless driving to offenses for which, if convicted, a defendant's property may be subject to criminal forfeiture.