

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 1539  
By: Meyer  
General Investigating & Ethics  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Current law describes actions by a public servant or a person that are considered a misuse of official information and punishable as a third degree felony. To further discourage the misuse of official information for personal financial gain, H.B. 1539 proposes a tiered system of punishment that would increase the criminal penalties in certain circumstances.

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill expressly does one or more of the following: creates a criminal offense, increases the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or changes the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

H.B. 1539 amends the Penal Code to establish penalties for a misuse of official information offense that results in a net pecuniary gain to the person committing the offense ranging from a third degree felony to a first degree felony, depending on the amount of the net pecuniary gain.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

September 1, 2015.