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## Public Safety Committee

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### HB 1024

**Brief Description:** Reducing the penalty for possession of controlled substances.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Appleton, Reykdal, Robinson, Clibborn, Moeller, Moscoso and Farrell.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Brief Summary of Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduces the penalty for possession of a controlled substance from a class C felony to a misdemeanor.</li></ul>
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**Hearing Date:** 1/16/15

**Staff:** Cassie Jones (786-7303).

**Background:**

A controlled substance is defined as a drug, substance, or immediate precursor included in Schedules I through V as set forth in federal or state laws, or federal or state board of pharmacy rules. The schedule a substance is placed in depends on its potential for abuse, whether there is a currently accepted medical use in treatment, and the safety of the substance and risk for dependence, as determined by the Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission. Possession of a controlled substance is a class C felony. Class C felonies are punishable by five years in a state correctional institution, a fine of \$10,000, or both confinement and a fine.

**Summary of Bill:**

Possession of a controlled substance is a misdemeanor. A misdemeanor is punishable by up to 90 days in jail, a fine of \$1,000, or both. In addition, a misdemeanor violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act is subject to mandatory minimum penalties of imprisonment of not less than 24 consecutive hours and by a fine of not less than \$250.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

Possession with intent to manufacture or deliver a controlled substance and possession of a counterfeit substance are unchanged: a class B or C felony, depending on the substance.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.