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| BILL ANALYSIS |

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| S.B. 2140 |
| By: Hughes |
| Business & Industry |
| Committee Report (Unamended) |

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| **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**  It has been suggested that the current civil penalty imposed under the Deceptive Trade Practices‑Consumer Protection Act may have an excessive effect where a series of repeated violations make up part of a single scheme, action, or series of events. S.B. 2140 seeks to reduce such cumulative effects while retaining a strong deterrent against single violations by decreasing the maximum civil penalty per violation of the act. |
| **CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT**  It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change 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**  S.B. 2140 amends the Business & Commerce Code to decrease from $20,000 to $10,000 the maximum civil penalty that may be recovered by the attorney general per violation of the Deceptive Trade Practices-Consumer Protection Act. |
| **EFFECTIVE DATE**  September 1, 2019. |