

**Department of Planning and Budget
2004 Fiscal Impact Statement**

1. Bill Number House Bill 211

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron Clifford L. Athey, Jr.

3. Committee Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. Title Medical complaint investigation committees and medical and psychological practices audit committees

5. Summary/Purpose: This bill would abolish medical complaint investigation committees, medical practices audit committees, and psychological practices audit committees. The medical complaint investigation committees conduct informal inquiries for the purpose of recommending to the Board of Medicine whether sufficient grounds exist to warrant further proceedings by the Board on whether disciplinary action against a practitioner should be taken. The medical practices audit committees review the practice of the disciplined licensees to ascertain whether their practices conform to the conditions placed on their licenses by the Board of Medicine. The Board has had difficulty in finding physicians to serve on these committees. Currently, the Board of Medicine, the Department of Health Professions, the Health Practitioners' Intervention Program, and expert witnesses carry out the functions of the medical practices audit and medical complaint investigation committees. Psychological practices audit committees review the practices of disciplined licensees to ascertain whether their practices conform to the conditions placed on their licenses by the Board of Psychology. The Board has always chosen to conduct audits with the assistance of expert witnesses as needed instead of appointing formal committees. This bill is a recommendation of the Joint Subcommittee to Study the Operations, Practices, Duties, and Funding of the Commonwealth's Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Councils, and Other Governmental Entities pursuant to HJR 159 (2002).

6. No Fiscal Impact

7. Budget amendment necessary: These committees do not require the expenditure of any funds.

8. Fiscal implications: None

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:
Department of Health Professions

10. Technical amendment necessary: None

11. Other comments: This bill is a companion to Senate Bill 5.

Date: 01/12/04 / kwm

Document: G:\2004 Fiscal Year\Efis\Hb211.Doc

cc: Secretary of Health and Human Resources