

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

**1. Bill Number** House Bill 420

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

**2. Patron** Vivian E. Watts

**3. Committee** Health, Welfare and Institutions

**4. Title** Child abuse and neglect; multidisciplinary investigation teams

**5. Summary/Purpose:** This bill enables local social services departments to develop multidisciplinary teams to investigate cases involving child abuse or neglect and make recommendations regarding the prosecution of such cases. The bill requires that the teams include, where possible, members of the medical, mental health, legal and law-enforcement professions, including the attorney for the Commonwealth or his designee, a local child-protective services representative, and the guardian ad litem or other court-appointed advocate for the child. The teams shall develop investigation procedures, and confidentiality statements and interagency agreements between the parties or agencies involved in the investigation. The bill also provides that local departments may disclose information obtained during the course of a child-protective services investigation to such teams without a court order or consent of the family.

**6. No Fiscal Impact**

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** No

**8. Fiscal implications:** None

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:**

Department of Social Services  
Local departments of social services

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** No

**11. Other comments:** None

**Date:** 01/16/04 / kwm

**Document:** G:\2004 Fiscal Year\Efis\Hb420.Doc

cc: Secretary of Health and Human Resources