

Department of Planning and Budget 2006 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB 1501

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron Callahan, Vincent F. Jr.

3. Committee Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. Title Physicians; investigations without disciplinary actions

5. Summary/Purpose: Requires, notwithstanding the restrictions on disclosure included in present law, that whenever an individual files a written complaint against a physician licensed by the Board of Medicine, the Board shall (i) notify the complainant whenever any hearing is conducted on the matter under investigation pursuant to the complaint and inform the complainant of his right to attend the hearing; (ii) provide, upon concluding its deliberations on the matter, access to the records considered by the Board in reaching its decision to the complainant; and (iii) issue to the complainant an explanation of the rationale for the Board's decision when disciplinary action is not determined to be warranted that includes specific citations of relevant code sections or regulations used to make such determination.

6. Fiscal impact is preliminary

Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2006-07	\$539,593	-	Nongeneral Fund
2007-08	\$504,593	-	Nongeneral Fund
2008-09	\$504,593	-	Nongeneral Fund
2009-10	\$504,593	-	Nongeneral Fund
2010-11	\$504,593	-	Nongeneral Fund
2011-12	\$504,593	-	Nongeneral Fund

7. Budget amendment necessary: Yes, Item 299.

8. Fiscal implications: The Board of Medicine closes approximately 1,300 cases each year in which no disciplinary action is prescribed. This legislation would require the Board to prepare written explanation as to why no disciplinary action was taken and provide this documentation to the person who filed the complaint. The Board of Medicine does not currently prepare written summaries of this nature and it is assumed that the response required under this bill would need the expertise of a staff attorney. The Department of Health Professions estimates it would require six additional attorneys to handle the current volume of cases at a cost of \$453,690 (salary and fringe benefits.) In addition, it is assumed that these positions would coordinate any necessary review and follow-up. An administrative position at a cost of \$50,903 (salary and fringe benefits) would be needed to support the staff

attorneys. In addition, there would be a one-time cost of \$5,000 per employee for supplies and equipment. The department would absorb any on-going operational costs. The additional costs associated with this legislation would be covered with Board of Medicine regulatory fees.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:

Department of Health Professions

10. Technical amendment necessary: No

11. Other comments: This bill is similar to SB 702.

Date: 01/31/06

Document: G:\2006 Fiscal Year\2006 Ga Session\Efis 2006\Hb1501.Doc

cc: Secretary of Health and Human Resources