

## Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB2334

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:** Webert

**3. Committee:** General Laws

**4. Title:** Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation; enforcement; authority of investigators.

**5. Summary:** Provides that any complaint alleging an act or omission of a regulant that is within the jurisdiction of any regulatory board under the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation for which compliance has not been obtained shall not be closed at the intake stage, during the investigation, or at the close of an investigation unless such closure has been approved by the appropriate regulatory board.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See Item 8.

**7a. Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2019	0	0	n/a
2020	\$199,610	2.0	NGF
2021	\$192,234	2.0	NGF
2022	\$192,234	2.0	NGF
2023	\$192,234	2.0	NGF
2024	\$192,234	2.0	NGF
2025	\$192,234	2.0	NGF

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill increases the administrative responsibilities of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) by requiring regulatory boards to approve the closure of complaint cases currently closed by staff at the intake stage, investigations stage, or at the close of the investigation due to insufficient evidence of a regulatory violation. It is anticipated that up to 825 additional complaint cases may need to be reviewed and approved for closure by the regulatory boards when they meet in regular session. The 825 complaint cases are based on historic data for the number of cases that are closed annually at the intake and investigation stages due to insufficient evidence, which would now have to go to the boards for approval of closure. These are not new cases, just additional cases that will be required to go the boards. This will require more preparatory and follow-up work by the board staff.

DPOR estimates that this bill will add up to 825 additional complaint cases that will need to be reviewed and approved for closure by the regulatory boards. Current board staff cannot absorb the nearly double volume of cases presented to the boards for closure. Two additional classified administrative office specialist III positions are needed to perform the related tasks, including case compilation, imaging, agenda preparation, board meeting minutes, information system updates, and case closure. The cost of salary and benefits for the two positions, based on the mid-point for the Band 3 salary range is expected to be \$152,410 in FY 2020 (assuming 23 pay periods) and \$159,034 annually beginning in FY 2021. This is a recurring cost that will continue into future years.

In FY 2020, DPOR will need to purchase furniture and equipment for the new positions at an estimated cost of \$14,000. This is a one-time expenditure that will not continue into future years. Other operating costs beginning in FY 2020 and recurring in future years include telephone, employee development, computer operating support, and supplies. These costs are estimated at \$33,200 each year.

It is anticipated that the additional expenses can be absorbed within the department's existing appropriations and therefore a budget amendment is not necessary.

This legislation may also affect the staffing requirements of the intake and investigations sections but the extent is indeterminate at this time.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.