

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SB 5523

Mental Health Regulatory Agency

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Education Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Frederick

SB 5523 is the budget bill for the Mental Health Regulatory Agency. The agency consists of two licensing boards: The Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists and the Board of Psychology. The Mental Health Regulatory Agency is primarily supported by fees generated from licensing, applications, and examinations. The agency receives no moneys from the General Fund.

The 2021-23 budget recommended by the Subcommittee totals \$5,198,007 Other Funds, 14 positions and 14.00 FTE. The recommended budget is an 11.8 percent increase above the current service level. The budget includes additional limitation to make permanent one Licensing Manager position (1.00 FTE) to direct and support the licensing operations for both boards; additional limitation to hire a limited duration Investigator position (1.00 FTE) to assist with the backlog of investigations; and additional limitation in Attorney General fees to process the increasing number of complaints and investigations. The budget also includes a cost allocation adjustment to more equitably distribute the cost of shared resources between the two boards.

The Education Subcommittee recommends SB 5523 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.