

**SB 5513**

**Mental Health Regulatory Agency**

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SB 5513 is the budget bill for the Mental Health Regulatory Agency. The Agency contains two boards, the Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists and the Board of Psychologist Examiners. The Mental Health Regulatory Agency is supported by fees and receives no moneys from the General Fund.

The budget recommended by the Subcommittee totals \$3,514,013 Other Funds and 11.00 FTE. The budget incorporates the merging of these two boards as specified in HB 2319, including the redistribution of FTEs and expenditures equitably between the two boards, as well as a \$40 increase in renewal fees for counselors and therapists, to ensure the licensing fees of one board are not used to subsidize the expenses of the other. Other changes to the current service level include making permanent two limited duration positions, an Office Specialist and an Investigator, to handle the increase in licensing applications and investigative workload.

The Education Subcommittee recommends SB 5513 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.