



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 21

PRINTERS NO. 114

PRIME SPONSOR: Grell

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2013/14	FY 2014/15
General Fund	\$0	\$0

#### SUMMARY:

House Bill 21 amends the Mental Health Procedures Act concerning incompetency examinations in criminal cases.

#### ANALYSIS:

Under current law, the Mental Health Procedures Act requires the court to appoint a psychiatrist to perform a court-ordered incompetency examination, and only a psychiatrist retained by the defense can observe and participate in the examination. In addition, the court can only appoint a psychiatrist for an indigent defendant who objects to the conclusions of the court's appointed psychiatrist. This legislation would permit a licensed psychologist to also serve in these capacities that are now limited to only psychiatrists.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse impact on Commonwealth funds.

**PREPARED BY:** Jeff Miller  
House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** October 23, 2013

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*