

STATE BAR APPLICANTS: CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS



Telephone: (517) 373-8080

Facsimile: (517) 373-5874

www.house.state.mi.us/hfa

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Mitchell Bean, Director

124 N. Capitol Avenue

4-N HOB Lansing, MI

HOUSE BILL 5778 WITH COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Sponsor: Rep. Jennifer Faunce

House Committee: Criminal Justice

FLOOR ANALYSIS - 4/16/02

Analyst(s): Kyle I. Jen

SUMMARY

House Bill 5778 would amend the Revised Judicature Act of 1961 to specify that fingerprints of applicants for admission to the State Bar be forwarded to the Department of State Police, which would then forward them to the Federal Bureau of Investigations. Along with the fingerprints, the appropriate state and federal fees--which are to be borne by the applicant--are to be forwarded to the department. Current statute requires a determination of whether an "applicant has a record of criminal convictions in this state or other states," but does not specify the process for forwarding the fingerprints for the necessary criminal history checks to be conducted. According to the Department of State Police, the new provisions would simply codify current practice, so the bill would have no fiscal impact on the state or local governments.

As background, the current fee for both state and federal fingerprint-based criminal history checks to be conducted is \$54: \$30 for the state-level check and \$24 for the federal-level check. The state portion of the fee was increased from the statutory amount of \$15 for fiscal year 2001-02 only by Executive Order 2001-9.