

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB248

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
 Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Glass

3. **Committee:** General Laws

4. **Title:** Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation; autonomous agent.

5. **Summary:** Authorizes regulatory boards to promulgate regulations for an applicant requesting licensure of an autonomous agent that is owned or operated by such applicant. Autonomous agent is defined in the bill as software or hardware that operates independently, without real-time human intervention, and is capable of performing tasks that, when executed by a human, would require licensure by a regulatory board.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No. See item 8.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary, see Item 8.

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2024	-	-	-
2025	\$509,948	4	NGF
2026	\$499,948	4	NGF
2027	\$499,948	4	NGF
2028	\$499,948	4	NGF
2029	\$499,948	4	NGF
2030	\$499,948	4	NGF

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This bill increases the administrative responsibilities of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR). With this legislation there will be a need for an additional four positions, two pay band four positions with benefits (\$225,386 total) and two pay band five positions with benefits (\$274,562 total). There will be an additional expense of postage and printing each estimated to be \$10,000 each. Additionally, DPOR anticipates that there could be indeterminate expenses such as upgrading software packages to interface with autonomous systems.

The potential revenue impact is indeterminate, as this may result in an increase from newly registered “autonomous agents” or a decrease if current licensees are displaced by automated systems. Because DPOR’s boards are funded by their regulant populations, a significant increase (or decrease) in licensees could result in a corresponding decrease (or increase) in fees.

The Appropriation Act allows for an adjustment to an agency's position level administratively. In the event additional positions are necessary, such an increase can be built into the agency's budget in subsequent years.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary:

11. Other Comments: