

HB 555 -- Complaints by Inmates Against Professional Counselors

Sponsor: Cooper (155)

This bill revises the complaint procedure and document retention requirements when an inmate files a complaint against a licensed professional counselor. When a complaint by an inmate is found to be lacking merit, no further disciplinary action will take place, no documentation will appear on file, and no notification will be given to the Committee for Professional Counselors in the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions, and Professional Registration unless there are grounds for disciplinary action to be taken against a counselor's license. Licensees subject to claims without merit prior to the effective date of the bill may request the committee to destroy documents pertaining to the claim, to notify other state licensing boards that the claim was unsubstantiated, and to supply him or her with a letter stating that the claim was unsubstantiated. Licensees will not be required to disclose the existence of unsubstantiated claims.