

Department of Planning and Budget 2001 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number** HB2580

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

2. **Patron** McDonnell

3. **Committee** S. Courts of Justice

4. **Title** Counsel in capital cases.

5. **Summary/Purpose:**

Directs the Supreme Court of Virginia and the Public Defender Commission to develop standards and a list of capital qualified attorneys to represent both indigent and non-indigent defendants. Additionally, the new qualifications are required to take into account current training in the analysis and introduction of forensic evidence. The judge of the circuit court may appoint counsel who is not included on the lists or lists, but who otherwise qualifies under the standards established and maintained by the Court and the Commission.

6. **Fiscal Impact Estimates are:** Yes, tentative (see #8 below).

7. **Budget amendment necessary:** No.

8. **Fiscal implications:**

According to the Public Defender Commission, there could be a fiscal impact in order to provide forensic training to attorneys. The actual fiscal impact, however, cannot be determined because it would depend on the costs of the experts, resignation fees, and attendance.

According to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court and the Virginia State Bar, any additional fiscal impact could be absorbed with current resources.

9. **Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** The court system.

10. **Technical amendment necessary:** No.

11. **Other comments:** None.

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