

Department of Planning and Budget 2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number SB1192ER

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron Reynolds

3. Committee Passed Both Houses

4. Title Interpreters for non-English speaking persons

5. Summary/Purpose: Provides that the court may assess as part of the costs taxed to the defendant the costs of any interpreter appointed for the defendant when the defendant fails to appear for trial and is convicted of a failure to appear and the interpreter appears in the case and no other case on the date the defendant is convicted.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Final (see Item 8)

7. Budget amendment necessary: No

8. Fiscal implications: According to the Supreme Court of Virginia, data is not available to determine the fiscal impact of this bill.

In fiscal year 2005-2006, the Commonwealth of Virginia provided interpreter services in 59,539 cases at a total cost of \$3.6 million or roughly \$61 per case. Approximately 75 percent of these cases were from six jurisdictions: Fairfax, Prince William, Arlington, Alexandria, Harrisonburg/Rockingham and Chesterfield.

This bill aims to recoup the interpreter hourly rate from defendants who do not show up for trial and are subsequently convicted of failure to appear in court. It is difficult to predict how many persons, who were assigned an interpreter, will not show up for court and even more difficult to predict how successful the Commonwealth would be at collecting the assessed amount.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Courts

10. Technical amendment necessary: No

11. Other comments: None

Date: 03/06/07 / RMT

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