

Department of Planning and Budget

2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1946E

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☒ Engrossed

Second House ☒ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Peace

3. **Committee:** Senate Committee for Courts of Justice

4. **Title:** **Statewide case and financial management systems; interface with circuit courts**

5. **Summary:** Gives the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court the responsibility for the operation and maintenance of a statewide case management system and financial management system, for related technology improvements, and requires that he permit an interface to any circuit court that uses automation or technology improvements provided by a private vendor or the locality. Any costs above \$104,280 associated with designing, implementing and maintaining any such interface shall be the responsibility of the circuit court clerk.

6. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary (see Item 8)

7. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 38

8. **Fiscal Implications:** As a result of the requirements of this bill, the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court believes it will have to hire an Information Technology (IT) professional knowledgeable of its operating systems, software development programs, case and financial management systems and the range of existing state government interfaces in order to establish, support, maintain, test and troubleshoot any individual court interfaces developed with a private vendor. The annual cost of salary and fringe benefits required to hire a professional with these skills is \$104,280.

It is not possible to estimate the possible fiscal impact to circuit court clerks associated with the costs of designing, implementing and maintaining any such interface. It is assumed that the circuit court clerk's technology trust fund (TTF) would be used to cover these expenses.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Courts

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** In order to implement the intent of this legislation, a technical amendment to paragraph I may be necessary to allow money to be transferred out of the Technology Trust Fund (TTF).

11. **Other Comments:** It is not entirely clear how to execute this legislation as far as making payments from the TTF. The easiest way is to transfer from amounts appropriated for the TTF under the Compensation Board to the Supreme Court of Virginia, which would be best implemented with budget language allowing such transfer. Otherwise, because of paragraph

I., each circuit court clerk would have to be charged by the Supreme Court to make payment, which would be a larger administrative burden on the court system.

Date: 2/6/2009

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