

**Department of Planning and Budget
2013 Fiscal Impact Statement**

1. Bill Number: SB979

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

2. Patron: Northam

3. Committee: Senate Committee for Courts of Justice

4. Title: Retention of case records; general district court.

5. Summary: Permits the chief judge of a general district court to direct the clerk of that court to destroy documents related to civil and criminal cases that have been ended for a period of three years, provided that they have been microfilmed or converted to an electronic format. Currently, such documents must be retained for 10 years.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary (see Item 8)

8. Fiscal Implications: Currently, court documents related to civil and criminal cases must be retained for at least 10 years. This bill permits earlier destruction of general district court records if a particular court has already initiated a program of the electronic conversion of their case records. The bill does not require or facilitate the initiation of such conversion programs in general district courts.

According to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia (OES), this legislation has no fiscal impact on courts especially since the court is already obligated to undergo the cost of destroying records.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Courts

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None

Date: January 16, 2013

Document: G:\FY 2013 FIS\SB979 - Record Retention.Doc