

2014 SESSION

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE

14105084D

SENATE BILL NO. 443

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Appropriations
on March 3, 2014)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Norment)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-69.6:1 and 17.1-507 of the Code of Virginia, relating to number of judges.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 16.1-69.6:1 and 17.1-507 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 16.1-69.6:1. Number of judges.

For the several judicial districts there shall be full-time general district court judges and juvenile and domestic relations district court judges, the number as hereinafter set forth, who shall during their service reside within their respective districts, except as provided in § 16.1-69.16, and whose compensation and powers shall be the same as now and hereafter prescribed for general district court judges and juvenile and domestic relations district court judges.

The number of judges of the districts shall be as follows:

	General District Court Judges	Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judges
First	4 3	3
Second	7	7 6
Two-A	1	1
Third	3 2	3 2
Fourth	6 5	5
Fifth	3 2	2
Sixth	4	2
Seventh	4 3	4 3
Eighth	3	3
Ninth	3	3
Tenth	3 2	3
Eleventh	2 3	2
Twelfth	4 5	5 6
Thirteenth	8 6	5 4
Fourteenth	4 5	5
Fifteenth	6 8	7 9
Sixteenth	4	4 6
Seventeenth	4 2	2 1
Eighteenth	2 1	2 1
Nineteenth	11 10	8 6
Twentieth	4 3	3
Twenty-first	2 1	2
Twenty-second	2	3 4
Twenty-third	5 4	4
Twenty-fourth	4 3	5 6
Twenty-fifth	5 3	4
The general district court judges of the twenty-fifth district shall		
render assistance on a regular basis to the general district court		
judges of the twenty-sixth district by appropriate designation.		
Twenty-sixth	4 5	5 6
Twenty-seventh	5 4	4 5
Twenty-eighth	2	2
Twenty-ninth	3 1	2 3
Thirtieth	2 1	2
Thirty-first	4 5	5

The election or appointment of any district judge shall be subject to the provisions of § 16.1-69.9:3.

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§ 17.1-507. Number of judges; residence requirement; compensation; powers; etc.

A. For the several judicial circuits there shall be judges, the number as hereinafter set forth, who shall during their service reside within their respective circuits and whose compensation and powers shall be the same as now and hereafter prescribed for circuit judges.

The number of judges of the circuits shall be as follows:

First - ~~5~~ 4

Second - ~~10~~ 8

Third - ~~5~~ 4

Fourth - ~~9~~ 8

Fifth - 3

Sixth - 2

Seventh - ~~5~~ 6

Eighth - 4 2

Ninth - 4

Tenth - ~~3~~ 4

Eleventh - ~~3~~ 2

Twelfth - ~~5~~ 6

Thirteenth - ~~8~~ 7

Fourteenth - 5

Fifteenth - ~~9~~ 11

Sixteenth - 5

Seventeenth - 4 2

Eighteenth - ~~3~~ 4

Nineteenth - ~~15~~ 14

Twentieth - 4

Twenty-first - ~~3~~ 2

Twenty-second - 4

Twenty-third - ~~6~~ 5

Twenty-fourth - 5

Twenty-fifth - 4 5

Twenty-sixth - ~~5~~ 7

Twenty-seventh - ~~5~~ 7

Twenty-eighth - 3

Twenty-ninth - 4 5

Thirtieth - 3

Thirty-first - 5

B. No additional circuit court judge shall be authorized or provided for any judicial circuit until the Judicial Council has made a study of the need for such additional circuit court judge and has reported its findings and recommendations to the Courts of Justice Committees of the House of Delegates and Senate. The boundary of any judicial circuit shall not be changed until a study has been made by the Judicial Council and a report of its findings and recommendations made to said Committees.

C. If the Judicial Council finds the need for an additional circuit court judge after a study is made pursuant to subsection B, the study shall be made available to the Compensation Board and the Courts of Justice Committees of the House of Delegates and Senate and Council shall publish notice of such finding in a publication of general circulation among attorneys licensed to practice in the Commonwealth. The Compensation Board shall make a study of the need to provide additional courtroom security and deputy court clerk staffing. This study shall be reported to the Courts of Justice Committees of the House of Delegates and the Senate, and to the Department of Planning and Budget.

2. That the provisions of this act reducing the number of authorized judgeships in the Second Judicial Circuit shall become effective upon the death, resignation, or retirement on or after January 1, 2014, of any judge of that court, except that the number of authorized judgeships in the Circuit Court of the Second Judicial Circuit shall be reduced to nine on the effective date of this act.

3. That the provisions of this act reducing the number of authorized judgeships in the Eighth Judicial Circuit shall become effective upon the death, resignation, or retirement on or after January 1, 2014, of any judge of that court, except that the number of authorized judgeships in the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit shall be reduced to three on the effective date of this act.

4. That the provisions of this act reducing the number of authorized judgeships in the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit shall become effective upon the death, resignation, or retirement on or after January 1, 2014, of any judge of that court, except that the number of authorized judgeships in the Circuit Court of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit shall be reduced to three on the effective

179 23. That the number of authorized judgeships in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District
180 Court of the Nineteenth Judicial District shall be reduced to seven effective upon the death,
181 resignation, or retirement on or after January 1, 2014, of any judge of that court and shall be
182 reduced to six effective upon the death, resignation, or retirement on or after January 1, 2014, of
183 any second judge of that court.

184 24. That in order to assess more accurately the added weight to be given cases (i) requiring the
185 use of interpreters and (ii) involving pro se litigants in circuit, general district, and juvenile courts
186 of the Commonwealth, and in order to better evaluate the impact of (a) travel time and (b) the use
187 of prosecutors in misdemeanor cases in district courts, the Virginia Supreme Court shall gather
188 empirical data on these issues and make recommendations to the Chairmen of the House
189 Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees and the Chairmen of the House and Senate
190 Committees for Courts of Justice by November 1, 2015.