

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 16.1-69.33 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Committee on District*  
3 *Courts; district court seal.*

4  
5 Approved

[S 789]

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

7 **1. That § 16.1-69.33 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 **§ 16.1-69.33. Committee on District Courts.**

9 There is hereby established a Committee on District Courts to be composed of the Majority Leader  
10 of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Delegates, the chairmen of the House and Senate Courts of  
11 Justice Committees or their designees who shall be members of the Courts of Justice committees, two  
12 members of each of the Committees for Courts of Justice of each house, to be appointed by the  
13 chairman of their Committee, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia who shall be chair of  
14 the Committee, one judge of a circuit court, two general district court judges and two juvenile and  
15 domestic relations district court judges. The judicial members of the Committee on District Courts shall  
16 be made to give representation insofar as feasible to various geographic areas of the Commonwealth.  
17 The judicial members of the Committee on District Courts shall be appointed by, and serve at the  
18 pleasure of the Chief Justice.

19 The Committee shall meet at such times and places as it may from time to time designate for the  
20 purposes of authorizing the appointment of substitute judges pursuant to § 16.1-69.14, authorizing the  
21 establishment of clerks' offices in counties or cities as may be requisite, and establishing when such  
22 offices shall be open for business, authorizing the appointment of personnel for the district courts  
23 pursuant to Article 4 (§ 16.1-69.37 et seq.) of this chapter and establishing procedures for administrative  
24 review of appeals from personnel actions for district court personnel and magistrates, fixing salary  
25 classification schedules of court personnel pursuant to Article 5 (§ 16.1-69.44 et seq.) of this chapter and  
26 establishing vacation and sick leave for district court judges, district court personnel and magistrates, and  
27 for such other duties or matters as are now, or may hereafter be conferred upon the Committee by law.  
28 *The Committee may also adopt an official seal and authorize its use by district court clerks and deputy*  
29 *clerks of the district courts.* Such salary classification schedules, vacation and sick leave policies shall be  
30 uniform throughout the Commonwealth.

31 The Committee on District Courts shall have sole authority and discretion in adjusting salary  
32 classification schedules for district court personnel. The Committee shall fix such salaries for the several  
33 district court personnel at least annually at such time as it deems it proper and as soon as practicable  
34 thereafter certify to the Comptroller and the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court a detailed  
35 statement of the salaries fixed by them for the several district courts and the effective date of any salary  
36 adjustments.

37 The Committee on District Courts shall appoint (i) a Clerk's Advisory Committee composed of two  
38 clerks from the general district courts and two clerks from the juvenile and domestic relations district  
39 courts; such appointments shall be made after giving due consideration to former clerks of county and  
40 municipal courts not of record; (ii) a Magistrate's Advisory Committee composed of two magistrates;  
41 such advisory committees are to make recommendations to the Committee regarding administrative  
42 functions of the district courts.

43 For the performance of their duties, the Committee shall be reimbursed out of the money  
44 appropriated for the adjudication of cases in the district trial courts for their actual expenses incurred in  
45 the performance of their duties and in addition, per diem compensation allowed for members of the  
46 General Assembly for each day spent in performing such duties; provided, however, that no additional  
47 compensation shall be paid to members of the judiciary serving on the Committee.

48 In the event of the establishment of personal liability of a district court judge or magistrate for the  
49 loss of property or money from a district court or magistrate's office by reason of robbery or burglary,  
50 the Committee on District Courts shall have the authority, after appropriate investigation and upon its  
51 determination that the individual judge or magistrate was not negligent in the performance of his duties,  
52 to reimburse such judge or magistrate to the extent of his personal liability on a warrant of the  
53 Comptroller issued as provided by law. However, such reimbursement shall not exceed \$1,000 per  
54 claim. This paragraph shall apply to all claims arising on and after July 1, 1976.