

Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB855

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

2. Patron: Cline

3. Committee: Courts of Justice

4. Title: Number of judges; general district court; 25th Judicial District

5. Summary: Adds a fourth judge to the maximum number allowed in the 25th Judicial District, general district court (Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Botetourt, Buena Vista, Covington, Craig, Highland, Lexington, Rockbridge, Staunton, and Waynesboro). This is a recommendation of the Committee on District Courts.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

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

8. Fiscal Implications: Currently, the 25th judicial district has four sitting general district court judges that preside over 10 courts in the district. During the 2014 Session of the General Assembly, the number of authorized general district court judgeships for the 25th judicial district was reduced from five to three based on a recommendation from the weighted caseload study conducted by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). See Virginia Code § 16.1-69.6.1

Based on current funding allocations, which currently supports four judges in the 25th Judicial District, there is sufficient existing appropriation to cover the cost of increasing the authorized number of general district court judgeships from three to four in the 25th Judicial district.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Courts

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: Similar to SB57