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SENATE BILL NO. 525

Offered January 10, 2018

Prefiled January 9, 2018

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-69.6:1, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, and 17.1-507 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the maximum number of judges in each judicial district and circuit.

Patron—Obenshain

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 16.1-69.6:1, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, and 17.1-507 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 16.1-69.6:1. (Effective until July 1, 2018) 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 maximum 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 maximum number of judges of the districts shall be as follows:

	General District Court Judges	Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judges
First	4	4
Second	7	7
Two-A	+ 2	1
Third	2	3
Fourth	6	5
Fifth	2	2
Sixth	4	3
Seventh	4	4
Eighth	3	3
Ninth	3	4
Tenth	3	4
Eleventh	3	3
Twelfth	5	6
Thirteenth	6	4
Fourteenth	5	5
Fifteenth	8	9
Sixteenth	4	6
Seventeenth	3	2
Eighteenth	2	2
Nineteenth	11	7
Twentieth	4	3
Twenty-first	+ 2	2
Twenty-second	2	4
Twenty-third	4	5
Twenty-fourth	3	6
Twenty-fifth	3	5
Twenty-sixth	5	7
Twenty-seventh	5	5
Twenty-eighth	2	3
Twenty-ninth	2	3
Thirtieth	2	3
Thirty-first	5	5

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

§ 16.1-69.6:1. (Effective July 1, 2018) 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 maximum 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.

INTRODUCED

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

	General District Court Judges	Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judges
63		
64		
65	First	4
66	Second	7 6
67	Two-A	1 2
68	Third	2
69	Fourth	6
70	Fifth	2 3
71	Sixth	4 5
72	Seventh	4
73	Eighth	3
74	Ninth	3
75	Tenth	3
76	Eleventh	3
77	Twelfth	5
78	Thirteenth	6
79	Fourteenth	5
80	Fifteenth	8
81	Sixteenth	4
82	Seventeenth	3
83	Eighteenth	2
84	Nineteenth	11
85	Twentieth	4
86	Twenty-first	1 2
87	Twenty-second	2
88	Twenty-third	4
89	Twenty-fourth	3
90	Twenty-fifth	4
91	Twenty-sixth	5
92	Twenty-seventh	5
93	Twenty-eighth	2 3
94	Twenty-ninth	2
95	Thirtieth	2
96	Thirty-first	5

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

98 **§ 17.1-507. Maximum number of judges; residence requirement; compensation; powers; etc.**

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

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

- 103 First — 5
- 104 Second — 9 8
- 105 Third — 4
- 106 Fourth — 8
- 107 Fifth — 3 4
- 108 Sixth — 3
- 109 Seventh — 6 5
- 110 Eighth — 3
- 111 Ninth — 4
- 112 Tenth — 4
- 113 Eleventh — 3
- 114 Twelfth — 6
- 115 Thirteenth — 8 7
- 116 Fourteenth — 5
- 117 Fifteenth — 11
- 118 Sixteenth — 6
- 119 Seventeenth — 3 4
- 120 Eighteenth — 4 3
- 121 Nineteenth — 15
- 122 Twentieth — 5
- 123 Twenty-first — 2 3
- 124 Twenty-second — 5 4
- 125 Twenty-third — 5
- 126 Twenty-fourth — 5 6

- 127 Twenty-fifth — 5 6
- 128 Twenty-sixth — 8
- 129 Twenty-seventh — 7 6
- 130 Twenty-eighth — 4
- 131 Twenty-ninth — 5
- 132 Thirtieth — 4
- 133 Thirty-first — 6

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

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

146 **2. That the provisions of this act reducing the number of authorized judgeships in the Second**
147 **Judicial Circuit shall become effective upon the death, resignation, or retirement on or after**
148 **January 1, 2018, of any judge of that court.**