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HOUSE BILL NO. 963

Offered January 22, 1996

A *BILL* to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 14.1-125.2, relating to assessment for circuit court clerks' offices; information technology.

Patron—Robinson

Referred to Committee on Appropriations

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 14.1-125.2 as follows:**

§ 14.1-125.2. Additional assessment for circuit court clerks' offices; information technology.

A. In addition to the fees otherwise authorized by this chapter, the clerk of each circuit shall assess a sum of three dollars in each law and chancery action, upon each instrument to be recorded in the deed books, and upon each judgment to be docketed in the judgment lien docket book. The fee shall be deposited with the State Treasurer into a special technology trust fund and administered by the Compensation Board and utilized solely for the purposes of (i) obtaining office and information technology equipment, including software and conversion services, (ii) preserving, maintaining and enhancing court records, including, but not limited to, the costs of repairs, maintenance, service contracts and system upgrades, and (iii) improving public access to the court records. This fee shall not apply to any matter tendered by either local or state governments.

B. Information regarding the technology programs adopted by the circuit court clerks shall be shared with the Department of Information Technology, the State Library of Virginia, and the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court.

C. On or before February 1 of each year, each circuit court clerk shall prepare a separate annual budget request for the moneys collected pursuant to subsection A and provide a copy to the State Compensation Board. In addition, a copy shall be provided to the local governing body for the city or county.

D. Nothing in this section shall be construed as affecting the duty of local governing bodies to furnish supplies and equipment to the clerks of the circuit courts pursuant to § 15.1-19. Revenue raised as a result of subsection A shall in no way supplant current funding to circuit court clerks' offices by local governing bodies.

INTRODUCED

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