1997 SESSION

ENROLLED

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY - CHAPTER 2 An Act to amend and reenact § 17-119.1:2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to number of circuit court 3 judges. 4 5 Approved Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia: 6 7 1. That § 17-119.1:2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows: 8 § 17-119.1:2. Number of judges; residence requirement; compensation; powers; etc. 9 A. For the several judicial circuits there shall be judges, the number as hereinafter set forth, who 10 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 judges in office when this shall 11 12 take effect shall continue in office for the term for which elected or appointed. 13 The number of judges of the circuits shall be as follows: 14 First - 3 4 15 Second - 10 Third - 4 16 Fourth - 9 17 Fifth - 3 18 Sixth - 2 19 20 Seventh - 4 21 Eighth - 4 22 Ninth - 4 23 Tenth - 3 24 Eleventh - 3 25 Twelfth - 4 26 Thirteenth - 8 27 Fourteenth - 4 28 Fifteenth - 6 29 Sixteenth - 5 30 Seventeenth - 4 31 Eighteenth - 3 32 Nineteenth - 15 33 Twentieth - 3 34 Twenty-first - 3 35 Twenty-second - 3 36 Twenty-third - 6 37 Twenty-fourth - 5 38 Twenty-fifth - 4 39 Twenty-sixth - 5 40 Twenty-seventh - 4 Twenty-eighth - 2 41 42 Twenty-ninth - 3 Thirtieth - 3 43 44 Thirty-first - 5 45 B. On and after January 1, 1975, 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 46 court judge and has reported its findings and recommendations to the Courts of Justice Committees of 47 the House of Delegates and Senate. In its study, the Judicial Council shall consider, and report its 48 findings regarding, the reduced case load that will occur if family court judgeships are authorized in 49 50 accordance with the provisions of Chapter 4.1, Article 2 (§ 16.1-69.6:1 et seq.) of Title 16.1. Nor shall 51 the boundary of any judicial circuit be changed until a study has been made by the Judicial Council and a report of its findings and recommendations made to said Committees. 52

53 C. If the Judicial Council finds the need for an additional circuit court judge after a study is made 54 pursuant to subsection B, the study shall be made available to the State Compensation Board and the 55 Courts of Justice Committees of the House of Delegates and Senate. The State Compensation Board 56 shall make a study of the need to provide additional courtroom security and deputy court clerk staffing.

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57 This study shall be reported to the Courts of Justice Committees of the House of Delegates and the58 Senate, and to the Department of Planning and Budget.