

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1999 SESSION

CHAPTER 839

An Act to amend and reenact § 8.01-4 of the Code of Virginia, relating to district and circuit court rules.

[H 2522]

Approved March 29, 1999

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 8.01-4 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 8.01-4. District courts and circuit courts may prescribe certain rules.

The district courts and circuit courts may, from time to time, prescribe *rules* for their respective districts and circuits. Such rules as ~~may be reasonably appropriate to~~ *shall be strictly limited to only those rules absolutely necessary to* promote proper order and decorum; and the ~~convenient~~ and efficient use of ~~courthouses~~ *courthouse facilities* and clerks' offices. No rule of any such court shall be prescribed or enforced which is inconsistent with *this statute or any other* statutory provision, ~~or the Rules of the Supreme Court~~, or contrary to the decided cases, or which has the effect of abridging substantive rights of persons before such Court. *Any rule of court which violates the provisions of this section shall be invalid.*

2. That the provisions of this act shall take effect July 1, 2000. The Courts of Justice Committee of the Senate and the Courts of Justice Committee of the House of Delegates along with the Supreme Court of Virginia shall review and make recommendations to the General Assembly by December 1, 1999, as to which matters are docket control procedures and which matters are local rules. It is the clear intent of the General Assembly that there be no local rules and that any docket control procedures not affect the substantive rights of the litigants.