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HOUSE BILL NO. 1624

Offered January 13, 1999

A BILL to amend and reenact § 17.1-507 of the Code of Virginia, relating to number of circuit court judges.

Patrons—Almand and Baker

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 17.1-507 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 17.1-507. (Effective October 1, 1998) Number of judges; residence requirement; compensation; powers; etc.

A. For the several judicial circuits there shall be judges, the number as hereinafter set forth, who 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 number of judges of the circuits shall be as follows:

First - 4

Second - 10

Third - 4

Fourth - 9

Fifth - 3

Sixth - 2

Seventh - 5

Eighth - 4

Ninth - 4

Tenth - 3

Eleventh - 3

Twelfth - 4

Thirteenth - 8

Fourteenth - 4

Fifteenth - 6 7

Sixteenth - 5

Seventeenth - 4

Eighteenth - 3

Nineteenth - 15

Twentieth - 4

Twenty-first - 3

Twenty-second - 3

Twenty-third - 6

Twenty-fourth - 5

Twenty-fifth - 4

Twenty-sixth - 5

Twenty-seventh - 4

Twenty-eighth - 2

Twenty-ninth - 3

Thirtieth - 3

Thirty-first - 5

B. 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 court judge and has reported its findings and recommendations to the Courts of Justice Committees of the House of Delegates and Senate. ~~In its study, the Judicial Council shall consider, and report its findings regarding, the reduced case load that will occur if family court judgeships are authorized in accordance with the provisions of Article 2 (§ 16.1-69.6:1 et seq.) of Chapter 4.1 of Title 16.1. Additionally, the~~ The boundary of any judicial circuit shall not be changed until a study has been made by the Judicial Council and a report of its findings and recommendations made to said Committees.

C. If the Judicial Council finds the need for an additional circuit court judge after a study is made pursuant to subsection B, the study shall be made available to the Compensation Board and the Courts of Justice Committees of the House of Delegates and Senate. The Compensation Board shall make a

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60 study of the need to provide additional courtroom security and deputy court clerk staffing. This study
61 shall be reported to the Courts of Justice Committees of the House of Delegates and the Senate, and to
62 the Department of Planning and Budget.