

Department of Planning and Budget

2001 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number** HB107

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☒ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. **Patron** Marshall, R.G.

3. **Committee**

4. **Title** Posting of certain statement.

5. **Summary/Purpose:**

HB107 requires every chief judge or other chief administrative officer of every Virginia court, whether not of record or of record, to post prominently in a conspicuous place in each of their courtrooms for all citizens to read the national motto, "In God We Trust," which is the national motto of the United States pursuant to 36 U.S.C. § 186 (1999). In addition, the Office of the Attorney General is required to intervene on behalf of any chief judge or other administrative officer and to provide legal defense of this provision. An enactment clause authorizes the chief judges and chief administrative officers to accept contributions in cash or in-kind from any person (defined to include individuals, companies, organizations, and other legal entities) to defray the costs of implementing this provision.

6. **No fiscal impact.** See Item 8.

7. **Budget amendment necessary:** No

8. **Fiscal implications:** This bill requires the Office of the Attorney General to intervene and provide legal defense if it results in a suit against the chief judges or other chief administrative officers of Virginia courts. The costs associated with these suits cannot be estimated. In addition, the chief judges and chief administrative officers can accept contributions to help defray the costs of this provision.

The Senate substitute amendment delays implementation of the proposal until funds necessary for its implementation are appropriated by the General Assembly.

9. **Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Courts, Office of the Attorney General

10. **Technical amendment necessary:** No

11. **Other comments:** None

Date: 02/21/02/amk

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