

## Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB1078

House of Origin      X      Introduced                  Substitute                  Engrossed  
Second House                 In Committee              Substitute                  Enrolled

**2. Patron:**        Howell

**3. Committee:** Senate Courts of Justice

**4. Title:**         **Expenses of Special Justices.**

**5. Summary:** Provides that special justices, retired judges, or district court substitute judges presiding over involuntary commitment hearings shall receive, in addition to a fee for each hearing, reimbursement for mileage, parking, tolls, and postage.

**6. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary (see Item 8)

**6a. Expenditure Impact: See Item 8**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2010	\$75,000		General
2011	\$75,000		General
2012	\$75,000		General
2013	\$75,000		General
2014	\$75,000		General
2015	\$75,000		General

**7. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 41

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This legislation would specifically allow for reimbursement to special justices for the costs associated with mileage, parking, tolls and postage. According to the Supreme Court of Virginia, these expenses are already reimbursed with the exception being postage. Postage expenses are incurred through mailing the reports of various hearings to the courts. During FY2008 there were almost 25,000 hearings (commitments, certifications, recommitments, and consent for medical treatment). At an estimated cost of \$3.00 to mail a copy of the report to the courts for each of the hearings, this bill would result in an annual fiscal impact of \$75,000 per year.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Courts

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None

**Date:** 1/23/2009

**Document:** G:\2009 FIS - COMPLETED\SB1078.Doc    Reginald Thompson

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