

## **Department of Planning and Budget**

### **2009 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** SB1390

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

**2. Patron:**        Stolle

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

**4. Title:**        **Designate Specific Districts & Circuits to Provide Judicial Assistance**

**5. Summary:** This bill requires all of the judges of specific judicial districts and circuits to provide judicial assistance to certain other districts and circuits on a regular basis. The districts and circuits to receive assistance are those districts and circuits where new judgeships have been recommended but not yet created.

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

**7. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**8. Fiscal Implications:** According to the Supreme Court of Virginia (SCV), it is likely that this proposed legislation will have some fiscal impact on the court system; however, the impact is indeterminate.

As introduced, it is likely that the proposed legislation would result in an increased number of district and circuit court judges traveling to other districts and circuits to lend assistance, thus incurring increased travel costs. While some courts to which the judicial assistance needs to be directed are already drawing upon the services of recalled retired judges, the level of assistance contemplated by this legislation suggests an appreciable increase in the level of external assistance received by these circuits and districts for which new judgeships have been recommended but not yet approved. In addition, it is expected that the process of providing this assistance will require additional time from both the respective clerks of the courts involved, as well as other administrative personnel in judicial chambers, in order to arrange dockets and coordinate the assisting judges. However, it is not possible to accurately quantify the fiscal impact.

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

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None

**Date:** 2/2/2009

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