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HOUSE BILL NO. 745 Offered January 11, 2012 Prefiled January 11, 2012

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 17.1-100.1, relating to judicial caseloads; weighted caseload system.

Patrons—Cline and Surovell

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 17.1-100.1 as follows:

§ 17.1-100.1. Judicial caseloads; weighted caseload system.

The Supreme Court shall develop a weighted caseload system to precisely measure and compare judicial caseloads throughout the Commonwealth on the circuit court, general district court, and juvenile and domestic relations district court levels. The system shall include the development of a comprehensive workload model, an objective means of determining the need for judicial positions, an assessment of the optimum distribution of judicial positions throughout the Commonwealth, and a recommended plan for the realignment of the circuit boundaries.

The Supreme Court shall report to the General Assembly by October 1, 2013, on the weighted caseload in each court in each county and city, and in each circuit and district based on the current circuit and district boundaries. The report shall include the current number of judges assigned to each court in each county and city. The Court shall also recommend a plan for the realignment of the circuit and district boundaries and the number of judges the Court recommends for assignment to each court in each county and city within the new circuits and districts.

The requirements of this section shall be accomplished using existing funds.