

## Department of Planning and Budget

### 2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB543

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Ruff

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

**4. Title:** Increase number of circuit court judgeships in the 10th Judicial Circuit

**5. Summary:** Adds a fourth circuit court judge to the 10th Judicial Circuit (Appomattox, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, and Prince Edward). This additional judgeship is recommended under the National Center for State Courts report entitled "Virginia Judicial Workload Assessment Report," issued November 15, 2013.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 39

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This legislation would add one additional judgeship to the 10th judicial circuit. According to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court (OES), the cost of a new circuit court judgeship in the first year is \$275,927 which includes salary, fringe benefits, substitute judge days and \$2,500 for information technology equipment. The judgeship cost for each succeeding year would be \$273,427.

In addition to the judgeship cost, the Compensation Board indicates each new circuit court judgeship would require 2 sheriff's deputy positions and 1 deputy circuit court clerk position. Currently, the cost for a deputy sheriff would be \$32,007 in the first year and \$34,983 in the second year. The cost for a deputy circuit court clerk would be \$26,074. The Governor's introduced budget provides for a 2 percent increase for deputy sheriffs and a 4 percent increase for deputy clerks beginning July 1, 2014. Assuming this provision in the introduced budget passes, the cost for a deputy sheriff would be \$32,647 in the first year and \$35,683 in the second year. The cost for a deputy clerk would be \$27,116.

The Compensation Board uses an allocation method based on staffing standards (workload factors) to assign positions. Any new positions received will likely be assigned based on an analysis of unmet workload needs.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Courts, Compensation Board

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** Companion bill HB330

RMT