

## **Department of Planning and Budget 2015 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** HB1853

<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:** Adams

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

**4. Title:** Number of judges; 21st Judicial Circuit; Martinsville, Henry and Patrick.

**5. Summary:** Increases the maximum number of circuit court judges in the 21st Judicial Circuit (Martinsville, and Henry and Patrick Counties) from two to three.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 39 and Item 66

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This legislation would add one additional judgeship to the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit. According to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court (OES), the annual cost for salary, fringe benefits and substitute judge days for a new circuit court judgeship would be \$284,672.

According to the Compensation Board each new circuit court judgeship requires two deputy sheriffs and one circuit court clerk. The cost for each deputy sheriff would be \$32,007 in the first year and \$34,983 in the second year and thereafter. The cost for a circuit court clerk would be \$26,074. The Compensation Board allocates positions in accordance with staffing standards and ranking methodologies. Therefore, it is uncertain whether or not funding and positions allocated for a circuit court clerk and courtroom security under this bill would actually be allocated to the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit.

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

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None