

Department of Planning and Budget

2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB57S1

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

2. Patron: Howell

3. Committee: Senate Committee for Courts of Justice

4. Title: Judges; increases number in 19th and 25th Judicial Districts

5. Summary: Increases from seven to eight the number of juvenile and domestic relations district court judges in the 19th Judicial District (Fairfax, Fairfax County) and increases from three to four the number of general district court judges in the 25th Judicial District (Covington, Lexington, Staunton, Buena Vista, Waynesboro, Highland, Augusta, Rockbridge, Bath, Alleghany, Botetourt, and Craig). This bill is a recommendation of the Committee on District Courts.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

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

8. Fiscal Implications: Currently, the 19th judicial district has eight sitting juvenile and domestic relations court judges. During the 2014 Session of the General, the number of authorized juvenile and domestic relations court judgeships for the 19th judicial district was reduced from eight to seven based on a recommendation from a study conducted by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). Subsequent study by the NCSC reflected a need for eight authorized juvenile and domestic relations court judgeships.

Because there are still currently eight funded judgeships, there is sufficient existing appropriation to cover the cost of increasing the authorized number of juvenile and domestic relations court judgeships from seven to eight in the 19th judicial district.

The 25th judicial district currently has four sitting general district court judges that preside over 10 courts in the district. During the 2014 Session of the General Assembly, the number of authorized general district court judgeships for the 25th judicial district was reduced from five to three based on a recommendation from a study conducted by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC).

Since the current funding allocations support four judgeships, there is sufficient existing appropriation to cover the cost of increasing the authorized number of general district court judgeships from three to four in the 25th judicial district.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Courts

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None

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