

Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1427

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Poindexter

3. Committee: House Committee for Courts of Justice

4. Title: Judges; reduces number in circuit courts in the Twenty-first and Twenty-second Circuits.

5. Summary: Reduces the maximum number of circuit court judges in the Twenty-second Circuit from five to four and removes the provision for the future reduction in the number of circuit court judges in the Twenty-first Circuit from three to two. The bill also removes the requirement that the Judicial Council study and report on the need for additional judges before a new judgeship may be created.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

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

8. Fiscal Implications: Under Virginia Code § 17.1-507, the Twenty-first and Twenty-second judicial circuits are authorized for a maximum of 2 and 5 judgeships, respectively. The following table shows the current number of authorized, filled and funded judgeships for each of the circuits:

Circuit	Current Authorized Judgeships (§ 17.1-507)	Currently funded and filled judgeships	Proposed Authorized Judgeships
Twenty-first	2	3	3
Twenty-second	5	4	4

According to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court (OES), the proposed changes to the number of authorized judgeships in the Twenty-first and Twenty-second Circuits has no overall fiscal impact on the Commonwealth. The procedural changes proposed in the bill for the determination and creation of additional judgeships can be implemented with minimal impact to the court's operation.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Courts

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: Same as SB807