Department of Planning and Budget
2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB4

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

2. **Patron:** Mullin

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

4. **Title:** Public accessibility to Supreme Court case management system

5. **Summary:** Requires the case management system operated and maintained by the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia to be open to the public for inspection. The bill provides that the case management system shall be searchable by party name, charge (for criminal cases), filing type (for civil cases), hearing date, and case number across all localities and that the entire compilation of records contained in the system shall be made available.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary**: Yes, Item 40

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The proposed legislation requires the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court (OES) to maintain a free online statewide case information system of all cases across all circuit courts, searchable by party name, charge (for criminal cases), filing types (for civil cases), hearing date, and case number across all localities. Further, the legislation requires that any records contained in the system shall be made available upon request.

   Currently, the OES has agency resources deployed to various automation projects related to date of birth confirmation, automation of DC-40 voucher processing, and an E-filing system for juvenile and domestic relations court. The implementation of this proposed legislation would require additional funding (see table below) and the diverting of agency resources from the ongoing automation projects listed above in order to meet a July 1, 2018 implementation date. The legislation does not specify an implementation timetable; however, according to the OES, if the implementation of the provisions is July 1, 2018, OES would likely have to pay premium contractor rates due to the short turnaround to get all the necessary system modifications in place. However, if the implementation date of this projected is July 1, 2019, the cost estimate is lower for normal contractor rates would apply.

Cost	July 1, 2018 implementation	July 1, 2019 implementation
Development of new search capacity and data/export/download feature	$465,300	$230,112
Data conversion, hosting and synchronization for any court not using the case management system hosted by OES ($201,960 per court for FY18 and $183,600 per court for FY19)	$403,920	$367,200
Total Estimated Cost	$869,220	$597,312
Less: Internal labor cost diverted from other projects	129,600	N/A
Additional Appropriation Needed	**$739,620**	**$597,312**

Currently, two courts (Fairfax and Alexandria) do not use the OES case management system. If additional courts opt to use a private vendor for their case management needs, the estimated total cost would increase by the per court increment shown in the table.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Courts

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

11. **Other Comments:** None