Department of Planning and Budget
2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB525

   House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

   Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Obenshain

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

4. **Title:** Maximum number of judges in each judicial district and circuit.

5. **Summary:** Increases or decreases the maximum number of judges in select judicial districts and circuits to reflect the number of authorized judgeships recommended by the Supreme Court of Virginia in the 2017 "Virginia Judicial Workload Assessment Report."

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary**: No

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The proposed bill designates the maximum authorized number of judgeships for each judicial district and circuit in the Commonwealth. The following table shows the total number authorized judges for each court level under the provisions of the proposed bill:

Court	Total Authorized Judgeships (Effective 7/1/18)
General District Court	130
Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court	135
Circuit Court	170
All District and Circuit Courts	**435**

According to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court (OES), there are currently 407 funded judgeships. If new judgeships are filled during the 2018 General Assembly Session the cost would be $288,822 for each circuit court judge and $264,334 for each district court judge.

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

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

11. **Other Comments:** None