

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB681

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

2. Patron: Mason

3. Committee: Senate Committee on the Judiciary

4. Title: Compensation of experts in criminal case

5. Summary: The proposed bill increases from \$750 to \$1,200 the maximum fee that the court may pay for professional services rendered by each psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, or other expert appointed by the court to render professional service in a criminal case other than capital murder.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes. Items 41, 42, 43 and 44

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

8. Fiscal Implications:

The proposed bill amends Code of Virginia, § 19.2-175 (compensation of experts) to increase from \$750 to \$1,200 the maximum fee that the court may pay for professional services rendered by each psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, or other expert appointed by the court to render professional service in a criminal case other than capital murder.

The Criminal Fund data management system does not provide a means to identify only the number of payments for professional services. For FY 2019, a total of \$1,750,000 was disbursed from the Criminal Fund pursuant to this statute. The amount disbursed in FY 2019 represents not only the \$750 payments for the professional services described in this statute, but also includes the \$100 per day, plus mileage for expert witnesses. Because witness fees and mileage make up some portion of the total disbursements, the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court (“OES”) estimates 80 percent of the total amount disbursed was for professional services. Based on assumption, the OES anticipates the fiscal impact of the proposed bill is \$840,000 annually.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Courts

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None