

## **Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** SB973

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

**2. Patron:** Edwards

**3. Committee:** Senate Committee on the Judiciary

**4. Title:** Increases maximum number of judges in nineteenth judicial district

**5. Summary:** Increases from five to six the maximum number of authorized circuit court judgeships in the twenty-third judicial district. The bill also increases from four to five the maximum number of authorized general district court judgeships in the twenty-third judicial district.

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

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The proposed bill would increase the authorized number of judgeships in the twenty-third judicial district. Under the bill, the maximum number of authorized circuit court judgeships would increase from five to six and the number of general district court judgeships would increase from four to five.

If the judgeships proposed by this bill are filled during or after the 2020 General Assembly session, the OES will need sufficient appropriation to cover the costs.

According to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court (“OES”), the estimated cost for a district court judgeship is \$261,303 and the cost for a district court clerk position to support the judgeship is \$62,134 for a total of \$323,437. The cost for a circuit court judgeship is \$284,051.

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

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None