

Department of Planning and Budget

2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB895S1

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☒ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Surovell

3. Committee: Senate Committee on the Judiciary

4. Title: Appeals of certain interlocutory decrees or orders

5. Summary: The substitute bill amends § 16.1-279.1 (Protective order in cases of family abuse) to establish that an appeal of a final protective order issued by a circuit court pursuant to this section must be given expedited review by the Court of Appeals.

The bill also amends § 17.1-405 (Appellate jurisdiction — Administrative agency, Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission, and civil matter appeals) to establish that no interlocutory decree or order may be appealed if such decree or order involves:

1. Affirmance or annulment of a marriage;
2. Divorce;
3. Custody of a minor child;
4. Spousal or child support;
5. Control or disposition of a minor child;
6. Any other domestic relations matter arising under Title 16.1 or 20; or
7. Any protective order other than a final protective order issued by a circuit court.

Additionally, the bill directs the Virginia Family Law Coalition (the Coalition) to conduct a study on appeals of interlocutory decrees or orders involving domestic relations matters in the Commonwealth. The Coalition must report the findings of such study to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and the House Committee for Courts of Justice by October 1, 2024.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

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

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court (“OES”), the substitute bill is not expected to create a material fiscal impact on the resources of the court system.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Courts

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None