

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB306

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: Ballard

3. Committee: Courts of Justice

4. Title: Appointment of counsel; public defenders; caseload exception.

5. Summary: This bill exempts the public defender, in jurisdictions where public defender offices are established, from providing defense services for indigent clients if the public defender, with the concurrence of the executive director of the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission, determines that the public defender's current active caseload would preclude the public defender from providing adequate representation to new clients.

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), this bill may impact the Criminal Fund. However, the number of courts where Public Defenders' offices may opt out of providing services for indigent clients as allowed by the bill and the total number of cases impacted by the bill cannot be known. Therefore, the impact on the Criminal Fund is indeterminate.

According to the Indigent Defense Commission, this bill is not expected to have a material impact on agency operations.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Courts, Indigent Defense Commission. Public Defenders

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None