Department of Planning and Budget 2025 General Assembly Session State Fiscal Impact Statement

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Bill Number: SB1327 ER **Patron:** Diggs **Bill Title:** Maximum number of judges in each judicial district.

Bill Summary: Increases by one the maximum number of general district court judges in the Ninth and Thirty-first Judicial Districts. The bill also increases by one the maximum number of juvenile and domestic relations district court judges in the Second Judicial District. This bill is a recommendation of the Committee on District Courts.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes **Items Impacted:** Item 34 and Item 35

Explanation: See below

Fiscal Summary: This bill would require additional funding and three positions to cover two additional general district court judgeships and one additional juvenile and domestic relations district court judgeship.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	FY2025	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	FY2029	FY2030
General District		\$624,404	\$617,804	\$617,804	\$617,804	\$617,804
Courts						
Juvenile and						
Domestic		\$312,202	\$308,902	\$308,902	\$308,902	\$308,902
Relations						
District Courts						
TOTAL		\$936,606	\$926,706	\$926,706	\$926,706	\$926,706

Position Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	FY2025	<u>FY2026</u>	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030
General District		2	2	2	2	2
Courts						
Juvenile and						
Domestic		1	1	1	1	1
Relations						
District Courts						
TOTAL		3	3	3	3	3

Fiscal Analysis: According to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court (OES), the estimated cost for each district court judgeship in the first year is \$312,202, which includes \$294,307 to cover salary and benefit costs, \$14,595 for a substitute judge, and \$3,300 in one-time expenses to equip chambers. The

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estimated cost for every subsequent year is \$308,902, which includes \$294,307 to cover salary and benefit costs for an additional judge and \$14,595 for a substitute judge.

Other: The Conference budget fully funds the three additional judgeships in FY 2026.