

**Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB158 **Patron:** Perry
Bill Title: Maximum number of judges in each judicial circuit.

Bill Summary: Increases from five to six the maximum number of judges authorized in the Twentieth Judicial Circuit. This bill is a recommendation of the Judicial Council of Virginia.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes **Item Impacted:** 33

Explanation: The proposed bill would increase the authorized number of circuit court judgeships in the Twentieth Judicial Circuit from five to six.

Fiscal Summary: The estimated cost for a circuit court judgeship in the first year is \$351,849 GF, which includes the expense to equip chambers. The estimated cost for each subsequent year is \$347,749 GF.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
Circuit Courts		\$351,849	\$347,749	\$347,749	\$347,7499	\$347,749
TOTAL		\$351,849	\$347,749	\$347,749	\$347,7499	\$347,749

Position Impact:

Fiscal Analysis:

The first-year impact is \$351,849 GF which includes \$334,044 to cover salary and benefit costs for the judge, \$12,205 for a substitute judge, \$1,500 for a clerk hire, and \$4,100 in one-time expenses to equip chambers. The ongoing fiscal impact is \$347,749 GF which includes \$334,044 for salary and benefits for the judge, \$12,205 for a substitute judge, and \$1,500 for a clerk hire.

Other: Companion bill is HB46.