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

PUBLISHED: 2/13/2026 9:16 AM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: SB283S1 **Patron:** Aird
Bill Title: Penalties for failure to appear; contempt.

Bill Summary: The substitute bill provides that in determining willful failure to appear before any court or judicial officer as required after having been charged with a felony offense or misdemeanor offense or released on a summons, factors such as (i) an illness, an injury, or any other unforeseen medical condition; (ii) unforeseen transportation problems; (iii) an inability to obtain adequate dependent care; and (iv) any affirmative steps taken by a person to communicate or remedy his failure to appear before any court or judicial officer as required. In addition, the substitute bill defines "willfully fails to appear" as the intentional conduct for the purpose of avoiding the judicial process. Finally, the substitute bill prevents the consideration of prior isolated instances of nonappearance, including convictions based on such nonappearance, as evidence that a failure to appear was willful, however a prior pattern of recurrent and purposeful conduct to evade prosecution may be considered factors in assessing willfulness.

Budget Amendment Necessary: None **Items Impacted:** N/A
Explanation: See below

Fiscal Summary: According to the Office of the Executive Secretary (OES) of the Supreme Court of Virginia, there is no anticipated fiscal impact from the bill.

Fiscal Analysis: Any unanticipated costs that may arise from the bill are expected to be absorbable with existing resources.

Other: None.