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

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Bill Number: SB83S1 **Patron:** Salim
Bill Title: District or circuit court; possession of portable electronic devices.

Bill Summary: This substitute bill requires the chief judge of each general district court, juvenile and domestic relations district court, and circuit court to set a policy regarding the use and possession of portable electronic devices, defined in the bill as a personal laptop, a tablet, a mobile telephone, an electronic calendar, an electronic book reader, a smart watch, or any other electronic personal communication device, by members of the public who are not otherwise authorized to use or possess such portable electronic devices. The bill sets forth what additional provisions are required to be included in such policy depending upon whether the chief judge of the district or circuit court prohibits, restricts, or allows the use or possession of such portable electronic devices in the courthouse, courtrooms, or both. The bill requires that any such policy be conspicuously posted at the entrance of the courthouse and available on the Virginia Judicial System's website, the district or circuit court's individual website, or a local government website that also has information about such district or circuit court. The bill also requires that the State Board of Local and Regional Jails (SBLRJ) shall collect data regarding the number of local and regional jails that, as of July 1, 2026, provide telephonic, electronic, or web-based communication systems, and the cost of providing such telephonic, electronic, or web-based communication systems in each local or regional jail where such systems are not already provided. The State Board of Local and Regional Jails shall report its findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the Senate Committee for Courts of Justice and House Committee on Public Safety by November 1, 2026.

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

Fiscal Summary: According to the Office of the Executive Secretary (OES) of the Supreme Court of Virginia and the State Board of Local and Regional Jails (SBLRJ), 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