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

PUBLISHED: 3/4/2026 10:08 AM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: HB1485S1 **Patron:** Hope
Bill Title: Maximum number of judges on the Court of Appeals of Virginia; hearings en banc; summary disposition of certain civil cases.

Bill Summary: Increases from 17 to 21 the maximum number of authorized judges on the Court of Appeals of Virginia. The bill provides that the Supreme Court of Virginia shall prescribe by rule the number of judges needed for the Court of Appeals to sit en banc, and that such number shall not be fewer than 13 judges. Additionally, the bill permits the Court of Appeals to summarily affirm the decision below in certain civil cases. The bill becomes effective on September 1, 2026.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes **Items Impacted:** 32
Explanation: See Fiscal Analysis.

Fiscal Summary: According to the Office of the Executive Secretary (OES) of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the estimated annual cost is $3,426,976 in the first year and $3,146,976 in subsequent years.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
Court of Appeals		$3,426,976	$3,146,976	$3,146,976	$3,146,976	$3,146,976
TOTAL		**$3,426,976**	**$3,146,976**	**$3,146,976**	**$3,146,976**	**$3,146,976**

Fiscal Analysis: According to the Office of the Executive Secretary (OES) of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the annual cost for a Court of Appeals judge, including salary and benefits, is $350,205. Each judgeship also has other associated annual costs such as travel expenses, equipment leasing, and office space rental totaling approximately $53,556. The office space rental costs can vary geographically, with the cost in Northern Virginia approximately 74% higher than the statewide average. During the first year, equipping each judge's office with furniture and technology will cost approximately $70,000.

Each judge is able to hire up to three law clerks, with each costing an average of $127,661 annually for salary and benefits. Thus, the total estimated annual cost for law clerks per-judge is $382,983.

The estimated annual cost for the four Court of Appeals judgeships authorized within this legislation is $3,426,976 in the first year and $3,146,976 for subsequent years.

Other: Funding is provided in House Amendment Item 32 #1h. Related to SB793.