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

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Bill Number: SB83ER **Patron:** Salim
Bill Title: District or circuit court; possession of portable electronic devices.

Bill Summary: This bill adds several provisions relating to courthouse and courtroom security. The 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 by visitors to the court. The bill authorizes such chief judge to condition the use and possession of portable electronic devices upon certain limitations.

The bill also provides that if a sheriff allows courthouse employees to bypass any security screening required to enter a courthouse, such sheriff shall also exempt from the security screening any attorney who displays a valid Virginia State Bar-issued bar card and a government-issued identification. The bill creates a Class 1 misdemeanor for any attorney who has had his license to practice law in the Commonwealth suspended or revoked and who displays a Virginia State Bar-issued bar card in an effort to be exempt from the security screening.

The bill requires the State Board of Local and Regional Jails to develop and establish minimum standards to ensure that attorneys have sufficient opportunities to have confidential visits with their clients and requires sheriffs or jail superintendents to provide a telephonic, electronic, or web-based communication method for prisoners in local correctional facilities to communicate with attorneys.

Finally, the bill requires the State Board of Local and Regional Jails to 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 assess 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.