

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

circuit court judgeship in the first year is \$351,849, which includes the expense to equip chambers. The estimated cost for every subsequent year is \$347,749. Therefore, the estimated cost for the three additional district court judgeships and one additional circuit court judgeship in FY2027 would be \$1,318,233. The cost for these judgeships plus an additional JDR judgeship and a circuit court judgeship in FY2028 would be \$1,975,810. The cost for every subsequent year would be 1,967,610.

Additionally, the Judicial Council of Virginia (the Council) will conduct a study examining the organization and boundaries of the Fifteenth and Twentieth Judicial Circuits. The Council will review current caseload data, population data, other relevant data, and all calculations and recommendations provided in the three judicial workload studies conducted by the National Center for State Courts and submitted to the General Assembly to assess caseloads for the localities within the Fifteenth and Twentieth Judicial Circuits; (ii) evaluate current court management practices and judicial court assignments and provide an analysis of the impact of such practices and assignments on the overall efficiency of the courts and judges; (iii) consider the geography of the Fifteenth and Twentieth Judicial Circuits and time spent traveling between courthouses; (iv) analyze the composition of localities currently included in the Fifteenth and Twentieth Judicial Circuits as compared to other judicial circuits to determine whether they have a disproportionate number of localities with significant population and caseload growth; and (v) determine if the citizens of the Fifteenth and Twentieth Judicial Circuits would be better served by adjusting the boundary lines of such judicial circuits in order to create additional judicial circuits. If boundary lines are not recommended to be redrawn, the Council will provide suggestions to ease burdens on judges and specify any additional resources or support that the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia may be able to provide. The Council will complete its meetings by November 30, 2026.

Other: The Senate provides funding via:

- Amendment 33 #1s, which provides \$351,849 and one position in FY2027 and \$699,598 and two positions in FY2028 for two additional circuit court judgeships established by this bill.
- Amendment 34 #1s, which provides \$644,256 and two positions in FY2027 and \$636,056 and two positions in FY2028 for two additional general district court judgeships established by this bill.
- Amendment 35 #1s, which provides \$322,128 and one position in FY2027 and \$640,156 and two positions in FY2028 for two additional juvenile and domestic relations court judgeships established by this bill.