

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

Court of Appeals	4	4	4	4	4
TOTAL	10	10	10	10	10

Fiscal Analysis: According to the Office of the Executive Secretary (OES) of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the estimated cost for a single district court judgeship in the first year is \$322,128, which includes the expense to equip chambers. The estimated cost for every subsequent year is \$318,028. The estimated cost for a single 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.

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, equipment leasing, and office space rental totaling approximately \$53,556. It is important to note that office space rental costs can vary geographically, with the cost being up to 74% higher in Northern Virginia 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. 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 for this bill is provided in House amendment Items 32 #1h, 33 #1h, 34 #1h, and 35 #1h. This bill is similar to SB158.