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SENATE BILL NO. 443

Offered January 8, 2014

Prefiled January 7, 2014

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-69.6:1 and 17.1-507 of the Code of Virginia, relating to number of judges.

Patrons—Norment, Ruff and Vogel

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 16.1-69.6:1 and 17.1-507 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:
 § 16.1-69.6:1. Number of judges.

For the several judicial districts there shall be full-time general district court judges and juvenile and domestic relations district court judges, the number as hereinafter set forth, who shall during their service reside within their respective districts, except as provided in § 16.1-69.16, and whose compensation and powers shall be the same as now and hereafter prescribed for general district court judges and juvenile and domestic relations district court judges.

The number of judges of the districts shall be as follows:

	General District Court Judges	Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judges
First	4	3 4
Second	7	7
Two-A	1	1
Third	3 2	3
Fourth	6	5
Fifth	3 2	2
Sixth	4	2
Seventh	4	4
Eighth	3	3
Ninth	3	3 4
Tenth	3	3 4
Eleventh	2 3	2 3
Twelfth	4 5	5 6
Thirteenth	8 6	5 4
Fourteenth	4 5	5
Fifteenth	6 8	7 10
Sixteenth	4	4 6
Seventeenth	4 3	2
Eighteenth	2	2
Nineteenth	11	8 7
Twentieth	4	3
Twenty-first	2 1	2
Twenty-second	2	3 4
Twenty-third	5 4	4 5
Twenty-fourth	4 3	5 6
Twenty-fifth	5 3	4 5
The general district court judges of the twenty-fifth district shall render assistance on a regular basis to the general district court judges of the twenty-sixth district by appropriate designation.		
—Twenty-sixth	4 5	5 7
Twenty-seventh	5	4 5
Twenty-eighth	2	2 3
Twenty-ninth	3 2	2 3
Thirtieth	2	2

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56 Thirty-first 4 5 5
57 The election or appointment of any district judge shall be subject to the provisions of § 16.1-69.9:3.
58 **§ 17.1-507. Number of judges; residence requirement; compensation; powers; etc.**
59 A. For the several judicial circuits there shall be judges, the number as hereinafter set forth, who
60 shall during their service reside within their respective circuits and whose compensation and powers
61 shall be the same as now and hereafter prescribed for circuit judges.
62 The number of judges of the circuits shall be as follows:
63 First - 5
64 Second - ~~10~~ 9
65 Third - ~~5~~ 4
66 Fourth - ~~9~~ 8
67 Fifth - 3
68 Sixth - ~~2~~ 3
69 Seventh - ~~5~~ 6
70 Eighth - ~~4~~ 3
71 Ninth - 4
72 Tenth - ~~3~~ 4
73 Eleventh - 3
74 Twelfth - ~~5~~ 6
75 Thirteenth - 8
76 Fourteenth - 5
77 Fifteenth - ~~9~~ 11
78 Sixteenth - ~~5~~ 6
79 Seventeenth - ~~4~~ 3
80 Eighteenth - ~~3~~ 4
81 Nineteenth - 15
82 Twentieth - ~~4~~ 5
83 Twenty-first - ~~3~~ 2
84 Twenty-second - ~~4~~ 5
85 Twenty-third - ~~6~~ 5
86 Twenty-fourth - 5
87 Twenty-fifth - ~~4~~ 5
88 Twenty-sixth - ~~5~~ 8
89 Twenty-seventh - ~~5~~ 7
90 Twenty-eighth - ~~3~~ 4
91 Twenty-ninth - ~~4~~ 5
92 Thirtieth - ~~3~~ 4
93 Thirty-first - ~~5~~ 6
94 B. No additional circuit court judge shall be authorized or provided for any judicial circuit until the
95 Judicial Council has made a study of the need for such additional circuit court judge and has reported
96 its findings and recommendations to the Courts of Justice Committees of the House of Delegates and
97 Senate. The boundary of any judicial circuit shall not be changed until a study has been made by the
98 Judicial Council and a report of its findings and recommendations made to said Committees.
99 C. If the Judicial Council finds the need for an additional circuit court judge after a study is made
100 pursuant to subsection B, the study shall be made available to the Compensation Board and the Courts
101 of Justice Committees of the House of Delegates and Senate and Council shall publish notice of such
102 finding in a publication of general circulation among attorneys licensed to practice in the
103 Commonwealth. The Compensation Board shall make a study of the need to provide additional
104 courtroom security and deputy court clerk staffing. This study shall be reported to the Courts of Justice
105 Committees of the House of Delegates and the Senate, and to the Department of Planning and Budget.
106 **2. That the provisions of this act reducing the number of authorized judgeships in the Twenty-first**
107 **Judicial Circuit shall become effective upon the death, resignation, or retirement on or after**
108 **January 1, 2014, of any judge of that court.**
109 **3. That the provisions of this act reducing the number of authorized judgeships in the General**
110 **District Court of the Third Judicial District shall become effective upon the death, resignation, or**
111 **retirement on or after January 1, 2014, of any judge of that court.**
112 **4. That the provisions of this act reducing the number of authorized judgeships in the General**
113 **District Court of the Fifth Judicial District shall become effective upon the death, resignation, or**
114 **retirement on or after January 1, 2014, of any judge of that court.**
115 **5. That the provisions of this act reducing the number of authorized judgeships in the General**
116 **District Court of the Thirteenth Judicial District shall become effective upon the death,**
117 **resignation, or retirement on or after January 1, 2014, of any judge of that court; except that the**

118 number of authorized judgeships in the General District Court of the Thirteenth Judicial District
119 shall be reduced to seven on the effective date of this act.

120 6. That the provisions of this act reducing the number of authorized judgeships in the General
121 District Court of the Twenty-fifth Judicial District shall become effective upon the death,
122 resignation, or retirement on or after January 1, 2014, of any judge of that court; except that the
123 number of authorized judgeships in the General District Court of the Twenty-fifth Judicial District
124 shall be reduced to four on the effective date of this act.

125 7. That the provisions of this act reducing the number of authorized judgeships in the Juvenile
126 and Domestic Relations District Court of the Thirteenth Judicial District shall become effective
127 upon the death, resignation, or retirement on or after January 1, 2014, of any judge of that court.

128 8. That the provisions of this act reducing the number of authorized judgeships in the Juvenile
129 and Domestic Relations District Court of the Nineteenth Judicial District shall become effective
130 upon the death, resignation, or retirement on or after January 1, 2014, of any judge of that court.

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