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SENATE BILL NO. 443

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee for Courts of Justice)

Senate Amendments in [] — February 7, 2014

(Patrons Prior to Substitute—Senators Norment, Ruff [SB 543], and Vogel [SB 317])

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.

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
Thirty-first	4 5	5

The election or appointment of any district judge shall be subject to the provisions of § 16.1-69.9:3.

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56 **§ 17.1-507. Number of judges; residence requirement; compensation; powers; etc.**

57 A. For the several judicial circuits there shall be judges, the number as hereinafter set forth, who
58 shall during their service reside within their respective circuits and whose compensation and powers
59 shall be the same as now and hereafter prescribed for circuit judges.

60 The number of judges of the circuits shall be as follows:

61 First - 5

62 Second - ~~10~~ 9

63 Third - ~~5~~ 4

64 Fourth - ~~9~~ 8

65 Fifth - 3

66 Sixth - ~~2~~ 3

67 Seventh - ~~5~~ 6

68 Eighth - 4 3

69 Ninth - 4

70 Tenth - ~~3~~ 4

71 Eleventh - 3

72 Twelfth - ~~5~~ 6

73 Thirteenth - 8

74 Fourteenth - 5

75 Fifteenth - ~~9~~ 11

76 Sixteenth - ~~5~~ 6

77 Seventeenth - 4 3

78 Eighteenth - ~~3~~ 4

79 Nineteenth - 15

80 Twentieth - 4 5

81 Twenty-first - ~~3~~ 2

82 Twenty-second - 4 5

83 Twenty-third - ~~6~~ 5

84 Twenty-fourth - 5

85 Twenty-fifth - 4 5

86 Twenty-sixth - ~~5~~ 8

87 Twenty-seventh - ~~5~~ 7

88 Twenty-eighth - ~~3~~ 4

89 Twenty-ninth - 4 5

90 Thirtieth - ~~3~~ 4

91 Thirty-first - ~~5~~ 6

92 B. No additional circuit court judge shall be authorized or provided for any judicial circuit until the
93 Judicial Council has made a study of the need for such additional circuit court judge and has reported
94 its findings and recommendations to the Courts of Justice Committees of the House of Delegates and
95 Senate. The boundary of any judicial circuit shall not be changed until a study has been made by the
96 Judicial Council and a report of its findings and recommendations made to said Committees.

97 C. If the Judicial Council finds the need for an additional circuit court judge after a study is made
98 pursuant to subsection B, the study shall be made available to the Compensation Board and the Courts
99 of Justice Committees of the House of Delegates and Senate and Council shall publish notice of such
100 finding in a publication of general circulation among attorneys licensed to practice in the
101 Commonwealth. The Compensation Board shall make a study of the need to provide additional
102 courtroom security and deputy court clerk staffing. This study shall be reported to the Courts of Justice
103 Committees of the House of Delegates and the Senate, and to the Department of Planning and Budget.

104 **2. That the provisions of this act reducing the number of authorized judgeships in the Twenty-first**
105 **Judicial Circuit shall become effective upon the death, resignation, or retirement on or after**
106 **January 1, 2014, of any judge of that court.**

107 **3. That the provisions of this act reducing the number of authorized judgeships in the General**
108 **District Court of the Third Judicial District shall become effective upon the death, resignation, or**
109 **retirement on or after January 1, 2014, of any judge of that court.**

110 **4. That the provisions of this act reducing the number of authorized judgeships in the General**
111 **District Court of the Fifth Judicial District shall become effective upon the death, resignation, or**
112 **retirement on or after January 1, 2014, of any judge of that court.**

113 **5. That the provisions of this act reducing the number of authorized judgeships in the General**
114 **District Court of the Thirteenth Judicial District shall become effective upon the death,**
115 **resignation, or retirement on or after January 1, 2014, of any judge of that court; except that the**
116 **number of authorized judgeships in the General District Court of the Thirteenth Judicial District**
117 **shall be reduced to seven on the effective date of this act.**

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

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

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

129 [9. That in order to follow up on the implementation of the Virginia Judicial Workload
130 Assessment Report, dated November 15, 2013, by the National Center for State Courts and in
131 order to assess more accurately the added weight to be given in cases requiring the use of
132 interpreters in Circuit, General District and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts in the
133 Commonwealth, the Virginia Supreme Court shall gather empirical data on the reliance of
134 interpreters and make recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate
135 Finance Committees by November 1, 2015.]

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