

HOUSE BILL NO. 310

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations

on February 27, 2024)

(Patrons Prior to Substitute-- Delegates Hope, Green [HB 154], and Torian [HB 717])

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-69.6:1 and 17.1-507 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the maximum number of judges in each judicial district and circuit.

**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 maximum 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 maximum number of judges of the districts shall be as follows:

	General District	Juvenile and Domestic
	Court Judges	Relations District Court Judges
c First	4	4
d Second	7	6
e Two-A	2	1
f Third	2	3
g Fourth	6	5
h Fifth	3	2
i Sixth	5	3

j	Seventh	4	4
k	Eighth	3	3
l	Ninth	3	4
m	Tenth	3	3
n	Eleventh	3	3
o	Twelfth	5	6
p	Thirteenth	6	5
q	Fourteenth	5	5
r	Fifteenth	8	9
s	Sixteenth	4	6
t	Seventeenth	3	2
u	Eighteenth	2	2
v	Nineteenth	12	8
w	Twentieth	4	<del>3</del> <u>4</u>
x	Twenty-first	2	2
y	Twenty-second	3	4
z	Twenty-third	4	5
aa	Twenty-fourth	3	6
ab	Twenty-fifth	4	5
ac	Twenty-sixth	5	7
ad	Twenty-seventh	5	5
ae	Twenty-eighth	3	3
af	Twenty-ninth	2	3
ag	Thirtieth	2	3
ah	Thirty-first	5	<del>5</del> <u>6</u>

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

18 **§ 17.1-507. Maximum number of judges; residence requirement; compensation; powers; etc.**

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

22 The maximum number of judges of the circuits shall be as follows:

23 First — ~~5~~ 6

24 Second — 8

25 Third — 4

26 Fourth — 8

27 Fifth — 4

28 Sixth — 3

29 Seventh — 5

30 Eighth — 3

31 Ninth — ~~4~~ 5

32 Tenth — 4

33 Eleventh — 3

34 Twelfth — 6

35 Thirteenth — 7

36 Fourteenth — 5

37 Fifteenth — ~~11~~ 12

38 Sixteenth — 6

39 Seventeenth — 4

40 Eighteenth — 3

41 Nineteenth — 15

42 Twentieth — 5

43 Twenty-first — 3

44 Twenty-second — 4

45 Twenty-third — 5

46 Twenty-fourth — 6

47 Twenty-fifth — 6

48 Twenty-sixth — 8

49 Twenty-seventh — 6

50 Twenty-eighth — 4

51 Twenty-ninth — 5

52 Thirtieth — 4

53 Thirty-first — 7

54 B. No additional circuit court judge shall be authorized or provided for any judicial circuit until  
55 the Judicial Council has made a study of the need for such additional circuit court judge and has reported  
56 its findings and recommendations to the House Committee for Courts of Justice and the Senate Committee  
57 ~~on the Judiciary~~ for Courts of Justice. The boundary of any judicial circuit shall not be changed until a  
58 study has been made by the Judicial Council and a report of its findings and recommendations made to  
59 said Committees.

60 C. If the Judicial Council finds the need for an additional circuit court judge after a study is made  
61 pursuant to subsection B, the study shall be made available to the Compensation Board and the House  
62 Committee for Courts of Justice and the Senate Committee ~~on the Judiciary~~ for Courts of Justice and the  
63 Judicial Council shall publish notice of such finding in a publication of general circulation among  
64 attorneys licensed to practice in the Commonwealth. The Compensation Board shall make a study of the  
65 need to provide additional courtroom security and deputy court clerk staffing. This study shall be reported  
66 to the House Committee for Courts of Justice and the Senate Committee ~~on the Judiciary~~ for Courts of  
67 Justice and to the Department of Planning and Budget.

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