

Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB191

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Mason

3. Committee: Senate Committee on the Judiciary

4. Title: Compensation of experts in criminal cases

5. Summary: The proposed bill increases from \$750 to \$1,200 the maximum fee that the court may pay for professional services rendered by each psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, or other expert appointed by the court to render professional service in a criminal case other than for aggravated murder cases.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 39

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary (see Item #8)

8. Fiscal Implications: The proposed bill would increase the maximum fee that the court may pay for professional services rendered by each psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, or other expert appointed by the court to render professional service in a criminal case other than aggravated murder from \$750 to \$1,200, a 60 percent increase. Between FY 2019 and FY 2021, the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court reports that an average of \$1,703,205 a year was paid out of the Criminal Fund for professional services rendered pursuant to § 19.2-175. If it is assumed that the amounts paid for experts would increase by 60 percent as a result of this bill, the increase in expenditure cost to the Criminal Fund would be an estimated \$1,021,923 annually.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Courts

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None