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SENATE BILL NO. 6

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled November 29, 2021

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

Patrons—Surovell, Barker, Bell, McPike and Stuart; Delegates: Guzman, Helmer, Kory, Murphy, Roem, Sewell, Subramanyam and Torian

Referred to Committee on the Judiciary

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 17.1-507 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 17.1-507. Maximum number of judges; residence requirement; compensation; powers; etc.**

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

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

First — 5

Second — 8

Third — 4

Fourth — 8

Fifth — 4

Sixth — 3

Seventh — 5

Eighth — 3

Ninth — 4

Tenth — 4

Eleventh — 3

Twelfth — 6

Thirteenth — 7

Fourteenth — 5

Fifteenth — 11

Sixteenth — 6

Seventeenth — 4

Eighteenth — 3

Nineteenth — 15

Twentieth — 5

Twenty-first — 3

Twenty-second — 4

Twenty-third — 5

Twenty-fourth — 6

Twenty-fifth — 6

Twenty-sixth — 8

Twenty-seventh — 6

Twenty-eighth — 4

Twenty-ninth — 5

Thirtieth — 4

Thirty-first — 6

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

C. If the Judicial Council finds the need for an additional circuit court judge after a study is made pursuant to subsection B, the study shall be made available to the Compensation Board and the House Committee for Courts of Justice and the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and Council shall publish notice of such finding in a publication of general circulation among attorneys licensed to practice in the

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58 Commonwealth. The Compensation Board shall make a study of the need to provide additional
59 courtroom security and deputy court clerk staffing. This study shall be reported to the House Committee
60 for Courts of Justice and the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, and to the Department of Planning and
61 Budget.