2026 Special Session I

Budget Bill - HB30 (Introduced)

Bill Order » Office of Administration » Item 65

Compensation Board

Item 65	First Year - FY2027	Second Year - FY2028
Financial Assistance for Circuit Court Clerks (77300)	**$81,741,987**	**$81,741,987**
Financial Assistance to Circuit Court Clerks (77301)	$19,720,007	$19,720,007
Financial Assistance for Operations for Circuit Court Clerks (77302)	$42,425,045	$42,425,045
Financial Assistance for Circuit Court Clerks' Land Records (77303)	$19,596,935	$19,596,935
Fund Sources:		
General	$73,738,617	$73,738,617
Trust and Agency	$8,003,370	$8,003,370

Authority: Title 15.2, Chapter 16, Article 6.1; §§ 51.1-706 and 51.1-137, Title 17.1, Chapter 2, Article 7, Code of Virginia.

A.1. The annual salaries of clerks of circuit courts shall be as hereinafter prescribed.

	July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027	**July 1, 2027 to June 30, 2028**
Less than 10,000	$104,832	$106,929
10,000 to 19,999	$128,839	$131,416
20,000-39,999	$147,304	$150,250
40,000-69,999	$154,685	$157,779

70,000-99,999	$167,605	$170,957
100,000-174,999	$182,378	$186,026
175,000-249,999	$187,992	$191,752
250,000 and above	$193,458	$197,327

2. Whenever a clerk of a circuit court is such for a county and a city, for two or more counties, or for two or more cities, the aggregate population of such political subdivisions shall be the population for the purpose of arriving at the salary of the circuit court clerk under the provisions of this Item.

3. Except as provided in Item 67 A 2, the annual salary herein prescribed shall be full compensation for services performed by the office of the circuit court clerk as prescribed by general law, and for the additional services of acting as general receiver of the court pursuant to § 8.01-582, Code of Virginia, indexing and filing land use application fees pursuant to § 58.1-3234, Code of Virginia, and all other services provided from, or utilizing the facilities of, the office of the circuit court clerk. Pursuant to § 8.01-589, Code of Virginia, the court shall provide reasonable compensation to the office of the clerk of the circuit court for acting as general receiver of the court. Out of the compensation so allowed, the clerk shall pay his bond or bonds. The remainder of the compensation so allowed shall be fee and commission income to the office of the circuit court clerk.

4. In any county or city operating under provisions of law which authorizes the governing body to fix the compensation of the clerk on a salary basis, such clerk shall receive such salary as shall be allowed by the governing body. Such salary shall not be fixed at an amount less than the amount that would be allowed the clerk under paragraphs A 1 through A 3 of this Item.

5. All clerks shall deposit all clerks' fees and state revenue with the State Treasurer in a manner consistent with § 2.2-806, Code of Virginia, unless otherwise provided by the Compensation Board as set forth in § 17.1-284, Code of Virginia or otherwise provided by law.

B. The reports filed by each circuit court clerk pursuant to § 17.1-283, Code of Virginia, for each calendar year shall include all income derived from the performance of any office, function or duty described or authorized by the Code of Virginia whether directly or indirectly related to the office of circuit court clerk, including, by way of description and not limitation, services performed as a commissioner of accounts, receiver, or licensed agent, but excluding private services performed on a personal basis which are completely unrelated to the office. The Compensation Board may suspend the allowance for office expenses for any clerk who fails to file such reports within the time prescribed by law, or when the board determines that such report does not comply with the provisions of this paragraph.

C. Each clerk of the circuit court shall submit to the Compensation Board a copy of the report required pursuant to § 19.2-349, Code of Virginia, at the same time that it is submitted to the Commonwealth's attorney.

D. Included within this appropriation are Trust and Agency funds necessary to support one position to assist circuit court clerks in implementing the recommendations of the Land Records Management Task Force Report dated January 1, 1998.

E. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 17.1-279 E, Code of Virginia, the Compensation Board may allocate to the clerk of any circuit court funds for the acquisition of equipment and software for a pilot project for the automated application for, and issuance of, marriage licenses by such court. Any such funds allocated shall be deemed to have been expended pursuant to clause (iii) of § 17.1-279 E for the purposes of the limitation on allocations set forth in that subsection.

F. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 17.1-279, Code of Virginia, the Compensation Board when distributing funds to the Circuit Court Clerk's Offices from the Technology Trust Fund shall ensure that each office has at least $1,000 per year for technology related expenditures.

G. Notwithstanding § 17.1-287, Code of Virginia, any elected official funded through this Item may elect to relinquish any portion of his state funded salary established in paragraph A 1 of this Item. In any office where the official elects this option, the Compensation Board shall ensure the amount relinquished is used to fund salaries of other office staff.

H.1. For audits of clerks of the circuit court completed after July 1, 2004, the Auditor of Public Accounts shall report any internal control matter that could be reasonably expected to lead to the loss of revenues or assets, or otherwise compromise fiscal accountability. The Auditor of Public Accounts will also report on compliance with appropriate law and other financial matters of the clerks' office.

2. For internal control matters that could be reasonably expected to lead to the loss of revenues or assets, or otherwise compromise fiscal accountability, the clerk shall provide the Auditor of Public Accounts a written corrective action plan to any such audit findings within 10 business days of the audit exit conference, which will state what actions the clerk will take to remediate the finding. The clerk's response may also address the other matters in the report. During the next audit, the Auditor of Public Accounts shall determine and report if the clerk has corrected the finding related to internal control matters that could be reasonably expected to lead to the loss of revenues or assets, or otherwise compromise fiscal accountability.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of Item 469, the Compensation Board shall not provide any salary increase to any circuit court clerk identified by the Auditor of Public Accounts who has not taken corrective action for the matters reported above, however, upon taking into consideration the size of the office of a circuit court clerk and their staffing capacity, the Compensation Board may determine there are extenuating circumstances in which any salary increases should not be withheld.

I.1. Subject to appropriation by the General Assembly for this purpose, the Compensation Board may implement a Circuit Court Clerks' Career Development Program.

2. Following receipt of a clerk's certification that the minimum requirements of the Clerks' Career Development Program have been met, and provided that such certification is submitted by Clerks as part of their annual budget request to the Compensation Board by February 1 of each year, the Compensation Board shall increase the annual salary shown in Paragraph A.1. of this Item by 9.3 percent with the salary increase becoming effective on the following July 1 for a 12-month period.

J.1. Subject to appropriation by the General Assembly for this purpose, the Compensation Board may implement a Deputy Clerks of Circuit Courts' Career Development Program.

2. For each deputy clerk selected by the clerk for participation in the Deputy Clerks' Career Development Program, the Compensation Board shall increase the annual salary established for that position by 9.3 percent following receipt of the clerk's certification that the minimum requirements of the Deputy Clerks' Career Development Program have been met and provided that such certification is submitted by clerks as part of their annual budget request to the Compensation Board by February 1 of each year.

K. Upon request of the attorney for the Commonwealth, the clerk of the circuit court shall contemporaneously provide the attorney for the Commonwealth copies of all documents provided to the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission pursuant to § 19.2-298.01 E, Code of Virginia.

L. The Compensation Board may obligate Trust and Agency funds in excess of the current biennium appropriation for the automation efforts of the clerks' offices from the Technology Trust Fund provided that sufficient cash is available to cover projected costs in each year and that sufficient revenues are projected to meet all cash obligations for new obligations as well as all other commitments and appropriations approved by the General Assembly in the biennial budget.

M. Offices of the Clerks of the Circuit Court, jails, adult detention centers, and the Department of Corrections are further authorized to enter into agreements to electronically transmit and process criminal court orders to assure timely and accurate recordation and processing of such records.

N.1. Out of the amounts in this Item, $5,524,340 the first year and $5,524,340 the second year from the general fund is for the allocation of 117 Deputy Clerk IV positions to assist with anticipated workload increases resulting from implementation of Chapter 671 and Chapter 634 of the 2025 Acts of Assembly. Localities shall utilize such funding to supplement, not supplant, local funds provided for salaries of Circuit Court Clerks and their employees. Any amounts provided in this paragraph not expended by June 30, 2026, shall not revert to the general fund and shall carryforward to support anticipated expenses in the next biennium.

2. If directed by the Compensation Board to do so, all Circuit Court Clerk offices shall report, in such format and on such timeline as prescribed by the Board, information with regard to workloads directly resulting from the bills that are not otherwise collected in the staffing study authorized by paragraph V. of Item 67, Chapter 725, 2025 Acts of Assembly.