

Judicial Department

The Governor's recommended amendments result in a net increase of \$1.2 million GF for the biennium when compared to the original appropriation. This total reflects new spending of \$1.9 million, offset by approximately \$700,000 in reductions.

Most of the new spending relates to establishment of additional law clerk positions for the Supreme Court Justices and the Appeal Court judges. Amendments are included to recognize the increased cost of Social Security taxes for justices and judges, totaling \$192,473 each year.

A series of technical adjustments is recommended to reflect a total of \$4,459 in savings from the suspension of performance indemnity bond premium payments, as approved by the 2000 General Assembly.

Language amendments implement the proposed 3.5 percent salary adjustment for justices and judges, effective November 25, 2001.

- **Supreme Court of Virginia**

- **Law Clerk Positions.** Provides \$46,037 GF the first year and \$450,867 GF the second year and 7.0 FTE positions to provide one additional law clerk each for the Chief Justice and the six Associate Justices, to meet increased workload.
- **Clerk of the Supreme Court.** Provides \$40,459 GF the second year and 1.0 FTE position for an additional position in the Office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court, to meet increased workload.
- **Expense Account Language.** Adjusts the language governing the \$6,500 annual expense account for each justice to provide that lodging expenses will be reimbursed directly by the Supreme Court rather than being paid from the expense account.

- **Court of Appeals of Virginia**

- **Law Clerk Positions.** Provides \$54,025 GF the first year and \$699,430 GF the second year and 11.0 FTE positions to provide one additional law clerk each for the Chief Judge and the 10 Judges, to meet increased workload.
- **Expense Account Language.** Adjusts the language governing the \$6,500 annual expense account for each judge to provide that lodging expenses will be reimbursed directly by the Court of Appeals rather than being paid from the expense account.

- **General District Courts**
 - ***Involuntary Mental Commitment Fund.*** Includes a reduction of \$700,000 GF in FY 2001. With this reduction, the carry-forward balance projected for June 30, 2001, is reduced to a level which is still sufficient to enable the fund to cover projected expenditures in the second year. However, a minimal carry-forward balance of \$18,140 is projected for June 30, 2002.
 - ***Annualize Personal Services Costs.*** Includes \$50,166 GF the second year to provide full funding for General District Court, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, and Combined District Court positions added by the 2000 General Assembly.
- **Board of Bar Examiners**
 - ***Additional Position.*** Provides \$25,336 GF the first year and \$36,847 GF the second year for one additional position included in the 2000 Appropriation Act. This position was to have been supported with applicant fees deposited to the general fund, for certifying out-of-state attorneys to practice law in Virginia without taking an examination.
- **Public Defender Commission**
 - ***Annualize Cost of New Positions.*** Includes \$66,767 GF the second year to provide full funding for new positions approved by the 2000 General Assembly.