

Judicial

The Governor's proposed 2002-04 budget for Judicial agencies contains a net increase of \$6.2 million for the biennium when compared to the adjusted appropriation for current operations. This total reflects new spending of \$25.7 million, offset by \$19.5 million in reductions.

The new spending includes additional funds to meet projected Criminal Fund expenditures, the cost of four new judges added by the 2001 General Assembly, and increased Social Security taxes on justices' and judges' salaries.

The proposed reductions consist of a 6 percent across-the-board decrease applied to the Judicial Department for a savings of \$9.7 million GF each year. These reductions are contained in a Judicial Department Reversion Clearing Account.

- **Supreme Court of Virginia**
 - ***Social Security Tax Base Increase*** Provides \$5,208 GF each year for increased Social Security taxes on the salaries for justices.
- **Court of Appeals of Virginia**
 - ***Social Security Tax Base Increase*** Provides \$8,184 GF each year for increased Social Security taxes on the salaries for judges.
- **Circuit Courts**
 - ***Criminal Fund***. Includes \$11.6 million GF each year for increased expenses projected in the Criminal Fund. (These funds are distributed to the Circuit, General District, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District, and Combined District Courts.)
 - ***Social Security Tax Base Increase***. Provides \$111,600 GF each year for increased Social Security taxes on the salaries for judges.
- **General District Courts**
 - ***Social Security Tax Base Increase***. Provides \$92,256 GF each year for increased Social Security taxes on the salaries for judges.
 - ***New Judgeships Approved in 2001***. Includes \$374,698 GF and 2.0 FTE positions each year for the new judgeships approved by the 2001 General Assembly.

- **Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts**
 - ***Social Security Tax Base Increase.*** Provides \$81,840 GF each year for increased Social Security taxes on the salaries for judges.
 - ***New Judgeships Approved in 2001.*** Includes \$374,698 GF and 2.0 FTE positions each year for the new judgeships approved by the 2001 General Assembly.
- **Virginia State Bar**
 - ***Information Management System.*** Adds \$500,000 NGF the first year to complete the integration of several computer systems to share a common database for accounting, membership, mandatory continuing education, and disciplinary action.
- **Judicial Department Reversion Clearing Account**
 - ***Across-the-Board Reductions.*** Includes unspecified, 6 percent across-the-board reductions totaling \$9.7 million GF each year. The budget document indicates the Criminal Fund, Involuntary Mental Commitment Fund, and justices' and judges' salaries are not included in the base for calculating the 6 percent reductions. Actions for achieving these savings are not specified in the budget.