

Judicial

Proposed amendments for the Judicial Department result in an increase of \$11.3 million GF (or 1.4 percent) for the 2010-12 biennium, compared to Chapter 874 as approved by the 2010 General Assembly. The budget as introduced includes \$406.3 million GF each year, \$32.5 million NGF each year, and 3,290.7 FTE positions from all funds.

- **Supreme Court of Virginia**
 - *Guardians ad Litem.* Includes language directing the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court to study the factors contributing to growth in Criminal Fund expenditures for attorneys certified to work as guardians ad litem, and provide recommended options to moderate the growth in expenditures.
 - *Federal Grants.* Includes an additional \$250,000 from federal funds each year to recognize additional grants.
- **General District Courts**
 - *Criminal Fund.* Includes \$2.1 million GF each year for projected costs paid through the Criminal Fund.
 - *Involuntary Mental Commitment Fund.* Includes \$282,591 GF each year for the projected cost of involuntary mental commitments.
- **Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts**
 - *Criminal Fund.* Provides \$3.3 million GF each year for projected costs paid through the Criminal Fund.
- **Board of Bar Examiners**
 - *Salary Adjustment.* Provides \$20,001 NGF in FY 2011 and \$21,240 NGF in FY 2012 for a salary adjustment for the Director of Character and Fitness.
 - *Bonus Payment.* Adds \$19,069 NGF in FY 2011 for the December 1, 2010 bonus payment for employees.
- **Indigent Defense Commission**
 - *Expiration of Grant.* Reduces the nongeneral fund appropriation by \$3,058 in FY 2011 and \$18,000 in FY 2012 to reflect the expiration of a local grant.
- **Virginia State Bar**
 - *Balance Transfer.* Includes language in Part 3 transferring a cash balance of \$5.0 million to the general fund.

- *Fee Structure.* Includes language directing the State Bar to review its member fee structure and make changes as necessary to ensure that fees are set at amounts needed only to cover costs and to provide for an appropriate balance.

- **Judicial Department Reversion Clearing Account**

- *Judicial Vacancies.* Amends language included in the 2010 Appropriation Act regarding the reversion of Judicial Department balances as a result of reducing the number of authorized circuit or district judgeships for each judgeship which was vacant or became vacant on or after February 15, 2010, through June 30, 2012, effective upon the resignation, death or retirement date of each such judge. This was expected to generate a reversion of savings to the general fund totaling \$3.9 million in FY 2011 and \$6.5 million in FY 2012 from deferring the replacement of the vacant judgeships. The introduced budget reduces the FY 2012 reversion by \$1.7 million, from \$6.5 million to \$4.8 million, which is consistent with the most recent projections of judicial vacancies. The language is also adjusted to provide that the required budget reduction may be generated from any type of budgetary action, and is not restricted to savings from judicial vacancies.