



Judicial System of Virginia

**Executive Amendments
2008 –2010 Biennial Budget**

**Supreme Court of Virginia
Office of the Executive Secretary
January 22, 2008**

Magistrate System

- The 2006 General Assembly directed the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia to submit a report regarding the selection, training, oversight, accountability, and scheduling of magistrates, and the use of videoconferencing technology.

Magistrate System

Major recommendations:

- Transfer supervisory authority from chief circuit court judges to the Office of the Executive Secretary.
- Provide magistrates with regional authority to make most efficient use of technology and personnel resources.
- Divide state into regions and establish magistrate regional supervisor position to oversee the chief magistrates in each region.

Magistrate System

Major recommendations:

- Enhance educational requirements for magistrates and chief magistrates.
- Expand training provided by OES for new magistrates.
- Provide management training for chief magistrates.
- Require all incumbent magistrates to attend mandatory training course and be re-certified.

Magistrate System

Major recommendations:

- Increase compensation to attract and retain qualified applicants for magistrates and chief magistrate positions.
- HB903 (Patron – Putney) addresses legislative changes necessary for magistrate reforms.

Magistrate System

Governor provided funding to support the majority of these recommendations.

FY09 - \$3.6 million for 35 positions and training

FY10 - \$4.3 million to maintain previous year funding and provides for an additional 11 positions

Magistrate System

Budget Amendment submitted for the improved compensation plan.

FY09 - \$1.9 million to move incumbent magistrates toward new classification plan, increases effective 1/1/09.

FY10 – Additional \$5.9 million (\$7.8 million total) to complete the transition to new classification plan, increases effective 7/1/09.

Court-appointed Attorney Waivers

2007-08 Appropriation - \$8.2 million

Expenditures to Date:

Waivers Requested – 1,331 waivers

Waivers Approved – 1,258 waivers

Total Payments - \$312,681

Court-appointed Attorney Waivers

Governor's 2008-10 Budget Bill:

Provided an additional \$1 million each year to implement a waiver program for court-appointed attorneys representing juveniles in cases where the charge would be classified as a felony if committed by an adult.

Foreign Language Interpreters

FY06:

- Virginia provided interpreter services in 59,539 cases at a total cost of \$3,649,067

FY07:

- Virginia provided interpreter services in 67,746 cases at a total cost of \$4,164,139
- 75% of the total interpreter costs were incurred in six jurisdictions: Fairfax, Prince William, Arlington, Alexandria, Harrisonburg/Rockingham, and Chesterfield.

Foreign Language Interpreters

FY08: - General Assembly funded 10 positions

- 1 Coordinator
- 9 staff interpreters:
 - Alexandria (1), Arlington (1), Fairfax (4), Harrisonburg (1), Prince William (2)

Benefits: Staff Interpreters

- Cost Savings
 - In FY07, Virginia provided interpreter services in 67,746 cases at a total cost of \$4,164,139 or approximately \$61 per case.
 - Since the start of the staff Spanish language interpreter program, the average cost per individual served where the program is active is \$41.74.
- Improved quality of services
- Reduced waiting times
- Improved scheduling and docket management

Foreign Language Interpreters

Governor's Biennial Budget 2008-2010

Funding provided for 5 additional staff interpreter positions

Budget Amendment

Seeking funding for an additional 5 staff interpreters to expand the program into other high volume parts of the state and increase service in pilot regions

Drug Courts

Currently 28 (14 State Funded) Drug Treatment Court Programs

Models:

- Adult, Juvenile, Family, DUI

Budget Amendments:

- 10 existing Adult and Juvenile (Non-state funded)
- 3 existing Family (Non-state funded)
- 1 Assistant Drug Court Coordinator
- 1 Drug Treatment Court Database Analyst

Adult and Juvenile

Adult:

Chesapeake, Hopewell, Loudoun, Staunton, Suffolk and Tazewell

Juvenile:

Fairfax, Hanover, Lee-Scott-Wise, and Prince William.

Federal funding:

Federal funding ended in October 2007 for eight programs. Funding is to end June 2008 for the Suffolk program. Tazewell is funded by the locality.

Family Drug Courts

Family:

Newport News, Alexandria and Charlottesville

Federal funding:

Federal funding will end in March 2008 for the Charlottesville program. Newport News and Alexandria are funded by the locality.

Programs - consequence of not funding

Programs will either:

- Close
- Substantially reduce their capacity and/or services

Current condition:

- Richmond Family closed June 2007
 - Hanover Juvenile and Suffolk Adult announced closing effective July 30, 2008
- Layoffs: Chesapeake, Lee, Scott and Wise.

Assistant Coordinator and Database Analyst

Assistant Coordinator:

- Assist Drug Court Coordinator
- Monitor and manage grants
- Facilitate drug treatment court activity and performance measures

Database Analyst:

- Oversee drug treatment court web-based information technology system used in evaluation efforts
 - System designed in 2006. All programs required to use effective July 1, 2007.

Note: Governor provided one-time funding of \$225,000 for continued evaluation efforts

Positions - consequence of not funding

- Essential functions related to oversight and maintenance of existing programs and the web-based information technology system may be adversely impacted or substantially delayed.