

## Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB418

**House of Origin**     Introduced     Substitute     Engrossed  
**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute     Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Simon

**3. Committee:** Courts of Justice

**4. Title:** Civil actions filed on behalf of multiple persons.

**5. Summary:** This bill provides that a circuit court may enter an order certifying a class or joining, coordinating, consolidating, or transferring civil actions upon finding that separate civil actions brought by a plaintiff on behalf of multiple similarly situated persons involve common question of law or fact and arise out of the same transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences. Under current law, such order is permitted only where six or more plaintiffs have filed such actions.

The bill requires the Supreme Court of Virginia to promulgate rules governing such actions. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2025.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Indeterminate

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See Item 8 below.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** According to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court (OES), the proposed bill would allow for new types of civil proceedings. However, it is not possible to estimate the scope of potential new cases. OES reports that there is no fiscal impact associated with promulgating the rules required by this proposal.

The Office of the Attorney General reports that this bill may expose the Commonwealth, state agencies, and employees to additional litigation and, therefore, may have a fiscal impact on agency operations. However, the fiscal impact cannot be quantified at this time.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Courts, Office of the Attorney General

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None