

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB259 H1

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

2. Patron: Surovell

3. Committee: Courts of Justice

4. Title: Civil actions filed on behalf of multiple persons; award of damages in action for retaliation.

5. Summary: The substitute version of this bill creates a new chapter in the Code of Virginia that governs class action lawsuits.

The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2025.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 49

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 in circuit courts. However, it is not possible to estimate the scope of potential new cases.

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) 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. OAG estimates the need for an additional senior staff attorney at \$172,297, three associate staff attorneys at \$126,951 each, one paralegal at \$100,178, and one IT position at \$104,152 (all include salary and benefits). In addition, OAG reports that it would need up to \$150,000 for new e-discovery software. The total estimated need is \$907,480 general fund in year one and \$757,480 each year thereafter.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None