

Strengthening Virginia's Economic Competitiveness: Why Virginia Should Create a Business Court Docket

Why Virginia Should Create a Business Court Docket (HB 604 / SB 369)

Virginia's economic success depends on more than low taxes and workforce talent. Businesses also need certainty, efficiency, and predictability when resolving disputes.

That's why *Blueprint Virginia 2035*—the Virginia Chamber's business plan for the Commonwealth—identified modernizing Virginia's legal and regulatory infrastructure as a cross-cutting recommendation to strengthen competitiveness across all industries.

HB 604 / SB 369 delivers on that *Blueprint* recommendation.



Why this Matters for Virginia's Business Climate

30+ states already operate business or complex litigation court or docket.

Neighboring and competitor states—North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, West Virginia, and Maryland—already offer this option.

A business court docket **enhances Virginia's reputation as a premier place to do business**, helping attract investments through corporate headquarters and high-paying jobs.

Courts specialized to hear complex business issues will:

- Promote consistent interpretation of commercial law
- Reduce litigation costs
- Strengthen Virginia's national legal reputation

Predictable, efficient dispute resolution is a key factor that businesses consider when choosing where to locate and expand.

More Efficient Case Management Benefits Everyone



Expertise Provided for Complex Commercial Disputes



Complex commercial cases:

- Require more specialized knowledge and procedural management
- Often move more slowly

A dedicated business docket:

- Assigns these cases to judges with experience and training in complex commercial law
- Improves efficiency and case management
- Frees up judicial resources, reducing delays for all Virginians

Under this bill, only qualified cases may be assigned to the business court docket, including:

A minimum amount in controversy (\$100,000)

Judicial determination of complexity

One or more of the following categories:

- Corporate governance disputes
- Derivative actions
- Merger or acquisitions
- Intellectual property
- Trade secrets
- Antitrust litigation
- Environmental litigation
- Franchise actions
- Uniform Commercial Code
- Business-to-business litigation

This tool ensures cases are decided by judges who regularly handle such matters, resulting in more consistent decisions.

The Bottom-Line for Virginia: Support HB 604 / SB 369

This legislation is a *Blueprint Virginia 2035* solution in action.

- ✓ Promotes economic development
- ✓ Improves judicial efficiency
- ✓ Enhances predictability for businesses
- ✓ Achieves faster resolution of disputes