
VIRGINIA STATE BUDGET

2006 Session

Budget Bill - HB30 (Introduced)

Bill Order » Office of Natural Resources » Item 358

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Item 358	First Year - FY2007	Second Year - FY2008
Land and Resource Management (50300)	\$25,856,846	\$25,556,846
Statewide Agricultural and Urban Nonpoint Source Water Quality Improvements (50301)	\$15,797,593	\$15,497,593
Dam Inventory, Evaluation and Classification and Flood Plain Management (50314)	\$972,031	\$972,031
Natural Heritage Preservation and Management (50317)	\$3,396,238	\$3,396,238
Financial Assistance to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (50320)	\$4,818,440	\$4,818,440
Technical and Financial Assistance for Land Management (50322)	\$872,544	\$872,544
Fund Sources:		
General	\$13,612,450	\$13,312,450
Special	\$1,885,618	\$1,885,618
Dedicated Special Revenue	\$2,889,903	\$2,889,903
Federal Trust	\$7,468,875	\$7,468,875

Authority: Title 10.1, Chapters 1, 5, 6, 7, and 21.1, Code of Virginia.

A. The funds provided in this Item for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts shall be distributed to the greatest extent possible to the districts in accordance with program, financial and resource allocation policies established by the Soil and Water Conservation Board. The June 30, 2007 and June 30, 2008, unexpended general fund balances in Financial Assistance to Soil and Water Conservation Districts are hereby reappropriated.

B. Included in the amount for Statewide Agricultural and Urban Non-Point Source Water Quality Improvements, are \$685,473 the first year, and \$685,473 the second year from the general fund as the Commonwealth's statewide match for participation in the federal Conservation Reserve Program. Any unexpended general fund balance designated for Virginia's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program remaining on June 30, 2007, and June 30, 2008, shall be reappropriated.

C. It is the intent of the General Assembly that all interest earnings of the Water Quality Improvement Fund shall be spent only upon appropriation by the General Assembly, after the recommendation of the Secretary of Natural Resources, pursuant to § 10.1-2129, Code of Virginia.

D. If the Rappahannock River Basin Commission elects as its chairman a member of the General Assembly, the Division of Legislative Services is hereby authorized to provide reasonable staff and technical assistance to the Commission. The Commission shall report to the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees on the Commission's activities and accomplishments by November 5 of each year.

E. Notwithstanding § 10.1-552, Code of Virginia, Soil and Water Conservation Districts are hereby authorized to recover a portion of the direct costs of services rendered to, and for use of district-owned conservation equipment used by, landowners within the district. Such recoveries shall not exceed the amounts expended by a District on these services and equipment.

F. The Department of Conservation and Recreation is authorized to develop, through regulatory action, a cost recovery system, the funds from which shall be used to support the direct costs of providing inspections, plan review, administrative review, and certifications of non-Soil and Water Conservation District dams. The system shall employ a sliding scale, if practical, and shall be based on factors that directly relate to the costs of the dam inspection program. Total costs recovered from the new system shall not exceed 90 percent of the actual program cost.

G. The Soil and Water Conservation Board shall prepare annual statistics, by District, that include the number of farmers, the number of acres in farms and in agricultural production (by product type), the number of farmers participating in District programs by program, the number of acres by product under each type of agricultural best management practice, the budgeted and expended funds for each agricultural best management practice, and other information needed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation to evaluate the quantitative impact of Soil and Water Conservation District practices and funding on Virginia's water quality and land conservation goals.

H. Included in the amount for Statewide Agricultural and Urban Nonpoint Source Water Quality Improvements is \$500,000 in the first year and \$500,000 in the second year from the general fund to be distributed to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts for implementing nonpoint source pollution control activities. The funding shall be distributed based on targeted workload to provide assistance to farmers with identifying and implementing needed conservation practices.