2013 Session

Budget Bill - HB1500 (Introduced)

Item 4-7.01

§ 4-7.00 STATEWIDE PLANS

§ 4-7.01 MANPOWER CONTROL PROGRAM

a.1. The term Position Level is defined as the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) salaried employees assigned to an agency in this act. Except as provided in § 4-7.01 b, the Position Level number stipulated in an agency's appropriation is the upper limit for agency employment which cannot be exceeded during the fiscal year without approval from the Director, Department of Planning and Budget for Executive Department agencies, approval from the Joint Committee on Rules for Legislative Department agencies or approval from the appropriate governing authority for the independent agencies.

2. Any approval granted under this subsection shall be reported in writing to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee, the Governor and the Directors of the Department of Planning and Budget and Department of Human Resource Management within ten days of such approval. Approvals for executive department agencies shall be based on threats to life, safety, health, or property, or compliance with judicial orders or federal mandates, to support federal grants or private donations, to administer a program for another agency or to address an immediate increase in workload or responsibility or when to delay approval of increased positions would result in a curtailment of services prior to the next legislative session. Any such position level increases pursuant to this provision may not be approved for more than one year.

b. The Position Levels stipulated for the individual agencies within the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department of Corrections are for reference only and are subject to changes by the applicable Department, provided that such changes do not result in exceeding the Position Level for that department.

c.1. The Governor shall implement such policies and procedures as are necessary to ensure that the number of employees in the Executive Department, excluding institutions of higher education and the State Council of Higher Education, may be further restricted to the number required for efficient operation of those programs approved by the General Assembly. Such policies and procedures shall include periodic review and analysis of the staffing requirements of all Executive Department agencies by the Department of Planning and Budget with the object of eliminating through attrition positions not necessary for the efficient operation of programs.

2. The institutions of higher education and the State Council of Higher Education are hereby authorized to fill all positions authorized in this act. This provision shall be waived only upon the Governor's official declaration that a fiscal emergency exists requiring a change in the official estimate of general fund revenues available for appropriation.

d.1. Position Levels are for reference only and are not binding on agencies in the legislative department, independent agencies, the Executive Offices other than the offices of the Governor's Secretaries, and the judicial department.

2. Positions assigned to programs supported by internal service funds are for reference only and may fluctuate depending upon workload and funding availability.

3. Positions assigned to sponsored programs, auxiliary enterprises, continuing education, and teaching hospitals in the institutions of higher education are for reference only and may fluctuate depending upon workload and funding availability. Positions assigned to Item Detail 43012, State Health Services Technical Support and Administration, at Virginia Commonwealth University are for reference only and may fluctuate depending upon workload and funding availability. Positions assigned to Item Detail 46102, Social Security Disability Determination, at the Department of Rehabilitative Services are for reference only and may fluctuate depending upon workload and funding availability.

4. Positions assigned to educational and general programs in the institutions of higher education are for reference only and may fluctuate depending upon workload and funding availability. However, total general fund positions filled by an institution of higher education may not exceed 105 percent of the general fund positions appropriated without prior approval from the Director, Department of Planning and Budget.

5. Positions assigned to Item Details 47001, Job Placement Services; 47002, Unemployment Insurance Services; 47003, Workforce Development Services; and 53402, Economic Information Services, at the Virginia Employment Commission are for reference only and may fluctuate depending upon workload and funding availability. Unless otherwise required by the funding source, after enactment of this act, any new positions hired using this provision shall not be subject to transitional severance benefit provisions of the Workforce Transition Act of 1995, Title 2.2, Chapter 32, Code of Virginia.

e. Prior to implementing any Executive Department hiring freeze, the Governor shall consider the needs of the Commonwealth in regards to the safe and efficient operation of state facilities and performance of essential services to include the exemption of certain positions assigned to agencies and institutions that provide services pertaining to public safety and public health from such hiring freezes.

f.1. Full-time, part-time, wage or contractual state employees assigned to the Governor's Cabinet Secretaries from agencies and institutions under their control for the purpose of carrying out temporary assignments or projects may not be so assigned for a period exceeding 180 days in any calendar year. The permanent transfer of positions from an agency or institution to the Offices of the Secretaries, or the temporary assignment of agency or institutional employees to the Offices of the Secretaries for periods exceeding 180 days in any calendar year regardless of the separate or discrete nature of the projects, is prohibited without the prior approval of the General Assembly.

2. Not more than three positions in total, as described in subsection 1 hereof, may be assigned at any time to the Office of any Cabinet Secretary, unless specifically approved in writing by the Governor. The Governor shall notify the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees in the case of any such approvals.

g. In accordance with the Affordable Care Act, all state employees in all branches of government who work 30 hours or more per week on average per month are considered to be, for health benefits purposes only, full-time employees eligible to participate in the health benefits plan for state employees with the standard contribution. Wage employees in the legislative, judicial, executive, and independent branches of government may not work more than 29 hours per week on average per month. Since the federal regulations are currently under development, the Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM) shall provide program requirements to agencies and employees, including information on wage, variable and seasonal employees, prior to the effective date of the law. To comply with federal law, all state agencies in all branches of government shall provide information requested by DHRM concerning wage employees and hours worked by employees. Agencies are accountable for compliance with this provision, and are responsible for any costs associated with any violations.