2020 Session

Budget Bill - SB29 (Introduced)

Item 4-1.05

§ 4-1.05 REVERSION OF APPROPRIATIONS AND REAPPROPRIATIONS

a. GENERAL FUND OPERATING EXPENSE:

1.a) General fund appropriations which remain unexpended on (i) the last day of the previous biennium or (ii) the last day of the first year of the current biennium, shall be reappropriated and allotted for expenditure where required by the Code of Virginia, where necessary for the payment of preexisting obligations for the purchase of goods or services, or where desirable, in the determination of the Governor, to address any of the six conditions listed in § 4-1.03 c.5 of this act or to provide financial incentives to reduce spending to effect current or future cost savings. With the exception of the unexpended general fund appropriations of agencies in the Legislative Department, the Judicial Department, the Independent Agencies, or institutions of higher education, all other such unexpended general fund appropriations unexpended on the last day of the previous biennium or the last day of the first year of the current biennium shall revert to the general fund.

b) General fund appropriations for agencies in the Legislative Department, the Judicial Department, and the Independent Agencies shall be reappropriated, except as may be specifically provided otherwise by the General Assembly. General fund appropriations shall also be reappropriated for institutions of higher education, subject to § 23.1-1002, Code of Virginia.

c) To improve the stability in institutional planning and predictability for students and families to prepare for the cost of higher education, public higher education institutions are encouraged to employ the financial management strategy of establishing an institutional reserve fund supported by any unexpended education and general appropriations of the institution at the end of the fiscal year. The establishment of such a fund is designed to foster more long-term planning, promote efficient resource utilization and reduce the need for substantial year-to-year increases in tuition, thereby increasing affordability for Virginians. Independent of the provisions of § 23.1-1001, institutions are authorized to carry over education and general unexpended balances to establish and maintain a reserve fund in an amount not to exceed three percent of their general fund appropriation for educational and general programs in the most recently-completed fiscal year. Any use of the reserve fund shall be approved by the Board of Visitors of the affected institution, and the institution shall immediately report the details of the approved plan for use of the reserve fund to the Governor, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Finance and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees. Any reserve fund shall be subject to the provisions of § 23.1-1303.B.11.

2. a. The Governor shall report within five calendar days after completing the reappropriation process to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees on the reappropriated amounts for each state agency in the Executive Department. He shall provide a preliminary report of reappropriation actions on or before November 1 and a final report on or before December 20 to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees.

b. The Director, Department of Planning and Budget, may transfer reappropriated amounts within an agency to

cover nonrecurring costs.

3. Pursuant to subsection E of § 2.2-1125, Code of Virginia, the determination of compliance by an agency or institution with management standards prescribed by the Governor shall be made by the Secretary of Finance and the Secretary having jurisdiction over the agency or institution, acting jointly.

4. The general fund resources available for appropriation in the first enactment of this act include the reversion of certain unexpended balances in operating appropriations as of June 30 of the prior fiscal year, which were otherwise required to be reappropriated by language in the Appropriation Act.

5. Upon request, the Director, Department of Planning and Budget, shall provide a report to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees showing the amount reverted for each agency and the total amount of such reversions.

b. NONGENERAL FUND OPERATING EXPENSE:

Based on analysis by the State Comptroller, when any nongeneral fund has had no increases or decreases in fund balances for a period of 24 months, the State Comptroller shall promptly transfer and pay the balance into the fund balance of the general fund. If it is subsequently determined that an appropriate need warrants repayment of all or a portion of the amount transferred, the Director, Department of Planning and Budget shall include repayment in the next budget bill submitted to the General Assembly. This provision does not apply to funds held in trust by the Commonwealth.

c. CAPITAL PROJECTS:

1. Upon certification by the Director, Department of Planning and Budget, the State Comptroller is hereby authorized to revert to the fund balance of the general fund any portion of the unexpended general fund cash balance and corresponding appropriation or reappropriation for a capital project when the Director determines that such portion is not needed for completion of the project. The State Comptroller may similarly return to the appropriate fund source any part of the unexpended nongeneral fund cash balance and reduce any appropriation or reappropriation which the Director determines is not needed to complete the project.

2. The unexpended general fund cash balance and corresponding appropriation or reappropriation for capital projects shall revert to and become part of the fund balance of the general fund during the current biennium as of the date the Director, Department of Planning and Budget, certifies to the State Comptroller that the project has been completed in accordance with the intent of the appropriation or reappropriation and there are no known unpaid obligations related to the project. The State Comptroller shall return the unexpended nongeneral fund cash balance, if there be any, for such completed project to the source from which said nongeneral funds were obtained. Likewise, he shall revert an equivalent portion of the appropriation or reappropriation of said nongeneral funds.

3. The Director, Department of Planning and Budget, may direct the restoration of any portion of the reverted amount if he shall subsequently verify an unpaid obligation or requirement for completion of the project. In the case of a capital project for which an unexpended cash balance was returned and appropriation or reappropriation was reverted in the prior biennium, he may likewise restore any portion of such amount under the same conditions.