
VIRGINIA STATE BUDGET

2026 Session

Budget Bill - HB29 (Chapter 7)

Bill Order » Part 4: General Provisions » Positions and Employment » Item 4-6.01

Employee Compensation

Item 4-6.01

§ 4-6.00 POSITIONS AND EMPLOYMENT

§ 4-6.01 EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

a. The compensation of all kinds and from all sources of each appointee of the Governor and of each officer and employee in the Executive Department who enters the service of the Commonwealth or who is promoted to a vacant position shall be fixed at such rate as shall be approved by the Governor in writing or as is in accordance with rules and regulations established by the Governor. No increase shall be made in such compensation except with the Governor's written approval first obtained or in accordance with the rules and regulations established by the Governor. In all cases where any appointee, officer or employee is employed or promoted to fill a vacancy in a position for which a salary is specified by this act, the Governor may fix the salary of such officer or employee at a lower rate or amount within the respective level than is specified. In those instances where a position is created by an act of the General Assembly but not specified by this act, the Governor may fix the salary of such position in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

b. Annual salaries of persons appointed to positions by the General Assembly, pursuant to the provisions of §§ [2.2-200](#) and [2.2-400](#), Code of Virginia, shall be paid in the amounts shown. However, if an incumbent is reappointed, his or her salary may be as high as his or her prior salary.

	July 1, 2024	June 11, 2025
	to	to
	June 10, 2025	June 30, 2026
Chief of Staff	\$223,610	\$230,318
Secretary of Administration	\$214,939	\$221,387
Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry	\$219,775	\$226,368
Secretary of Commerce and Trade	\$214,939	\$221,387
Secretary of the Commonwealth	\$219,775	\$226,368

Secretary of Education	\$214,939	\$221,387
Secretary of Finance	\$224,861	\$231,607
Secretary of Health and Human Resources	\$214,939	\$221,387
Secretary of Labor	\$214,939	\$221,387
Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources	\$214,939	\$221,387
Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security	\$222,207	\$228,873
Secretary of Transportation	\$214,939	\$221,387
Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs	\$219,774	\$226,367

c.1.a) Annual salaries of persons appointed to positions listed in subdivision c 6 hereof shall be paid in the amounts shown for the current biennium, unless changed in accordance with conditions stated in subdivisions c 2 through c 5 hereof.

b) The starting salary of a new appointee shall not exceed the midpoint of the range, except where the midpoint salary is less than a ten percent increase from an appointee's preappointment compensation. In such cases, an appointee's starting salary may be set at a rate which is ten percent higher than the preappointment compensation, provided that the maximum of the range is not exceeded. However, in instances where an appointee's preappointment compensation exceeded the maximum of the respective salary range, then the salary for that appointee may be set at the maximum salary for the respective salary range except if the new hire was employed in a state classified position, then the Governor may exceed the maximum salary for the position and set the salary for the employee at a salary level not to exceed the employee's salary at their prior state position.

c) Nothing in subdivision c 1 shall be interpreted to supersede the provisions of § 4-6.01 e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, and m of this act.

d) For new appointees to positions listed in § 4-6.01c.6., the Governor is authorized to provide for fringe benefits in addition to those otherwise provided by law, including post retirement health care and other non-salaried benefits provided to similar positions in the public sector.

2.a)1) The Governor may increase or decrease the annual salary for incumbents of positions listed in subdivision c 6 below at a rate of up to 10 percent in any single fiscal year between the minimum and the maximum of the respective salary range in accordance with an assessment of performance and service to the Commonwealth.

2) The governing boards of the independent agencies may increase or decrease the annual salary for incumbents of positions listed in subdivision c.7. below at a rate of up to 10 percent in any fiscal year between the minimum and maximum of the respective salary range, in accordance with an assessment of performance and service to the

Commonwealth.

b)1) The appointing or governing authority may grant performance bonuses of 0-5 percent for positions whose salaries are listed in §§ 1-1 through 1-9, and 4-6.01 b, c, and d of this act, based on an annual assessment of performance, in accordance with policies and procedures established by such appointing or governing authority. Such performance bonuses shall be over and above the salaries listed in this act, and shall not become part of the base rate of pay.

2) The appointing or governing authority shall report performance bonuses which are granted to executive branch employees to the Department of Human Resource Management for retention in its records.

3. From the effective date of the Executive Pay Plan set forth in Chapter 601, Acts of Assembly of 1981, all incumbents holding positions listed in this § 4-6.01 shall be eligible for all fringe benefits provided to full-time classified state employees and, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the annual salary paid pursuant to this § 4-6.01 shall be included as creditable compensation for the calculation of such benefits.

4. Notwithstanding § 4-6.01.c.2.b)1) of this Act, the Board of Commissioners of the Virginia Port Authority may supplement the salary of its Executive Director, with the prior approval of the Governor. The Board should be guided by criteria which provide a reasonable limit on the total additional income of the Executive Director. The criteria should include, without limitation, a consideration of the salaries paid to similar officials at comparable ports of other states. The Board shall report approved supplements to the Department of Human Resource Management for retention in its records.

5.a. With the written approval of the Governor, the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Museum of Natural History, Gunston Hall, and the Library Board may supplement the salary of the Director of each museum, and the Librarian of Virginia from nonstate funds. In approving a supplement, the Governor should be guided by criteria which provide a reasonable limit on the total additional income and the criteria should include, without limitation, a consideration of the salaries paid to similar officials at comparable museums and libraries of other states. The respective Boards shall report approved supplements to the Department of Human Resource Management for retention in its records.

b) The Board of Trustees of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation may supplement, using nonstate funds, the salary of the Executive Director of the Foundation. In approving the supplement the Board should be guided by criteria which provides a reasonable limit on the total additional income and the criteria should include, without limitation, a consideration of the salaries paid to similar officials at comparable Foundations in other states. The Board shall report approved supplements to the Department of Human Resource Management for retention in its records.

6.a) The following salaries shall be paid for the current biennium in the amounts shown, however, all salary changes shall be subject to subdivisions c 2 through c 5 above.

	July 1, 2024	June 11, 2025
	to	to
	June 10, 2025	June 30, 2026
Level I Range	\$215,000 - \$293,667	\$221,450 - \$302,477
Midpoint	\$254,334	\$261,964
Chief Information Officer, Virginia Information Technologies Agency	\$258,298	\$266,047
Commissioner, Department of Motor Vehicles	\$215,373	\$221,834

Commissioner, Department of Social Services	\$226,000	\$232,780
Commissioner, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	\$293,667	\$302,477
Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner	\$265,750	\$273,723
Director, Department of Corrections	\$216,424	\$222,917
Director, Department of Environmental Quality	\$249,711	\$257,202
Director, Department of Medical Assistance Services	\$252,849	\$260,434
Director, Department of Planning and Budget	\$220,626	\$227,245
State Health Commissioner	\$262,650	\$270,530
State Tax Commissioner	\$215,000	\$221,450
Superintendent of Public Instruction	\$262,650	\$270,530
Superintendent of State Police	\$236,010	\$243,090
	July 1, 2024	June 11, 2025
	to	to
	June 10, 2025	June 30, 2026
Level II Range	\$146,088 - \$215,000	\$150,471 - \$221,450
Midpoint	\$180,544	\$185,961
Commissioner, Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services	\$199,198	\$205,174
Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	\$186,435	\$192,028
Commissioner, Department of Veterans Services	\$186,435	\$192,028
Commissioner, Virginia Employment Commission	\$199,614	\$205,602
Executive Director, Department of Wildlife Resources	\$175,638	\$180,907
Commissioner, Marine Resources Commission	\$168,096	\$173,139
Director, Department of Forensic Science	\$214,110	\$220,533
Director, Department of General Services	\$215,000	\$221,450
Director, Department of Human Resource Management	\$193,310	\$199,109
Director, Department of Juvenile Justice	\$199,614	\$205,602
Director, Department of Energy	\$182,016	\$187,476
Director, Department of Rail and Public Transportation	\$215,000	\$221,450
Director, Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity	\$193,048	\$198,839
Executive Director, Motor Vehicle Dealer Board	\$146,088	\$150,471
Executive Director, Virginia Port Authority	\$180,551	\$185,968
State Comptroller	\$215,000	\$221,450
State Treasurer	\$193,048	\$198,839
Executive Director, Board of Accountancy	\$181,199	\$186,635

Director, Department of Workforce Development and Advancement	\$190,000	\$195,700
	July 1, 2024	June 11, 2025
	to	to
	June 10, 2025	June 30, 2026
Level III Range	\$144,745 - \$204,867	\$149,087 - \$211,013
Midpoint	\$174,806	\$180,050
Adjutant General	\$204,867	\$211,013
Chairman, Virginia Parole Board	\$200,663	\$206,683
Vice Chairman, Virginia Parole Board	\$147,084	\$151,497
Member, Virginia Parole Board	\$144,745	\$149,087
Commissioner, Department of Labor and Industry	\$179,535	\$184,921
Coordinator, Department of Emergency Management	\$170,496	\$175,611
Director, Department of Aviation	\$187,447	\$193,070
Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation	\$196,246	\$202,133
Director, Department of Criminal Justice Services	\$167,445	\$172,468
Director, Department of Health Professions	\$172,703	\$177,884
Director, Department of Historic Resources	\$161,665	\$166,515
Director, Department of Housing and Community Development	\$193,800	\$199,614
Director, Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation	\$168,000	\$173,040
Director, The Science Museum of Virginia	\$177,352	\$182,673
Director, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts	\$188,089	\$193,732
Director, Virginia Museum of Natural History	\$151,390	\$155,932
Executive Director, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation	\$169,419	\$174,502
Executive Secretary, Virginia Racing Commission	\$154,600	\$159,238
Librarian of Virginia	\$194,818	\$200,663
State Forester, Department of Forestry	\$180,296	\$185,705
	July 1, 2024	June 11, 2025
	to	to
	June 10, 2025	June 30, 2026
Level IV Range	\$115,687 - \$150,578	\$119,158 - \$155,095
Midpoint	\$133,133	\$137,127
Administrator, Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council	\$137,693	\$141,824
Commissioner, Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired	\$150,578	\$155,095
Executive Director, Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia	\$128,714	\$132,575

Commissioner, Department of Elections	\$146,716	\$151,117
Director, Gunston Hall	\$115,687	\$119,158
Executive Director, Department of Fire Programs	\$125,958	\$129,737
	July 1, 2024	June 11, 2025
	to	to
	June 10, 2025	June 30, 2026
Level V Range	\$29,386 - \$128,000	\$30,267 - \$131,840
Midpoint	\$78,963	\$81,054
Director, Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing	\$125,958	\$129,737
Executive Director, Virginia Commission for the Arts	\$128,000	\$131,840
Chairman, Compensation Board	\$29,386	\$30,267

7. Annual salaries of the directors of the independent agencies, as listed in this subdivision, shall be paid in the amounts shown. All salary changes shall be subject to subdivisions c 1, c 2, and c 3 above.

	July 1, 2024	June 11, 2025
	to	to
	June 10, 2025	June 30, 2026
Independent Range	\$182,016 - \$293,550	\$187,476 - \$302,357
Midpoint	\$237,783	\$244,917
Executive Director, Virginia Lottery	\$225,000	\$231,750
Director, Virginia Retirement System	\$232,273	\$239,241
Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Savers Plan	\$213,946	\$220,364
Chief Executive Officer, Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority	\$293,550	\$302,357
Chief Executive Officer, Virginia Cannabis Control Authority	\$182,016	\$187,476

8. Notwithstanding any provision of this Act, the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Retirement System may supplement the salary of its Director. The Board should be guided by criteria, which provide a reasonable limit on the total additional income of the Director. The criteria should include, without limitation, a consideration of the salaries paid to similar officials in comparable public pension plans. The Board shall report such criteria and potential supplement level to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and Appropriations and House Appropriations Committees at least 60 days prior to the effectuation of the compensation action. The Board shall report approved supplements to the Department of Human Resource Management for retention in its records.

9. Notwithstanding any provision of this Act, the Board of the Virginia College Savings Plan may supplement the compensation of its Chief Executive Officer. The Board should be guided by criteria which provide a reasonable limit on the total additional income of the Chief Executive Officer. The criteria should include, without limitation, a consideration of compensation paid to similar officials in comparable qualified tuition programs, independent

public agencies or other entities with similar responsibilities and size. The Board shall report such criteria and potential supplement level to the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and Appropriations and House Appropriations Committees at least 60 days prior to the effectuation of the compensation action. The Board shall report approved supplements to the Department of Human Resource Management for retention in its records.

10. Notwithstanding any provision of this act, the Board of the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority may supplement the salary of its Chief Executive Officer in accordance with § 4.1-101.02. The Board should be guided by criteria, which provide a reasonable limit on the total additional income of the Chief Executive Officer. The criteria should include, without limitation, a consideration of the salaries paid to similar officials in comparable independent agencies. The Board shall report such criteria and potential supplement level to the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees at least 60 days prior to the effectuation of the compensation action. The Board shall report approved supplements to the Department of Human Resource Management for retention in its record.

d.1. Annual salaries of the presidents of the senior institutions of higher education, the President of Richard Bland College, the Chancellor of the University of Virginia's College at Wise, the Superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute, the Director of the State Council of Higher Education, the Director of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center, the Director of the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center and the Chancellor of Community Colleges, as listed in this paragraph, shall be paid in the amounts shown. The annual salaries of the presidents of the community colleges shall be fixed by the State Board for Community Colleges within a salary structure submitted to the Governor prior to June 1 each year for approval.

2.a) The board of visitors of each institution of higher education or the boards of directors for Southern Virginia Higher Education Center, Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, and the New College Institute may annually supplement the salary of a president or director from private gifts, endowment funds, foundation funds, or income from endowments and gifts. Supplements paid from other than the cited sources prior to June 30, 1997, may continue to be paid. In approving a supplement, the board of visitors or board of directors should be guided by criteria which provide a reasonable limit on the total additional income of a president or director. The criteria should include a consideration of additional income from outside sources including, but not being limited to, service on boards of directors or other such services. The board of visitors or board of directors shall report approved supplements to the Department of Human Resource Management for retention in its records.

b) The State Board for Community Colleges may annually supplement the salary of the Chancellor from any available appropriations of the Virginia Community College System. In approving a supplement, the State Board for Community Colleges should be guided by criteria which provide a reasonable limit on the total additional income of the Chancellor. The criteria should include consideration of additional income from outside sources including, but not being limited to, service on boards of directors or other such services. The Board shall report approved supplements to the Department of Human Resource Management for retention in its records.

c) Norfolk State University is authorized to supplement the salary of its president from educational and general funds up to \$17,000.

d) Should a vacancy occur for the Director of the State Council of Higher Education on or after the date of enactment of this act, the salary for the new director shall be established by the State Council of Higher Education based on the salary range for Level I agency heads. Furthermore, the state council may provide a bonus of up to five percent of the annual salary for the new director.

July 1, 2024	June 11, 2025
to	to
June 10, 2025	June 30, 2026

NEW COLLEGE INSTITUTE

Executive Director, New College Institute	\$180,401	\$185,813
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STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

Director, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia	\$284,000	\$292,520
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SOUTHERN VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER

Director, Southern Virginia Higher Education Center	\$180,401	\$185,813
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SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER

Director, Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center	\$180,401	\$185,813
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VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Chancellor of Community Colleges	\$231,244	\$238,181
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SENIOR COLLEGE PRESIDENTS' SALARIES

Chancellor, University of Virginia's College at Wise	\$150,306	\$154,815
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President, Christopher Newport University	\$182,220	\$187,687
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President, The College of William and Mary in Virginia	\$210,578	\$216,895
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President, George Mason University	\$196,674	\$202,574
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President, James Madison University	\$215,502	\$221,967
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President, Longwood University	\$196,595	\$202,493
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President, Norfolk State University	\$229,268	\$236,146
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President, Old Dominion University	\$217,103	\$223,616
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President, Radford University	\$203,168	\$209,623
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President, Richard Bland College	\$173,468	\$178,672
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President, University of Mary Washington	\$189,202	\$194,878
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President, University of Virginia	\$234,221	\$241,248
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President, Virginia Commonwealth University	\$226,689	\$233,490
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President, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	\$247,762	\$255,195
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President, Virginia State University	\$191,021	\$196,752
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Superintendent, Virginia Military Institute	\$193,427	\$199,230
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e. 1. Salaries for newly employed or promoted employees shall be established consistent with the compensation and classification plans established by the Governor.

2. The State Comptroller is hereby authorized to require payment of wages or salaries to state employees by direct deposit or by credit to a prepaid debit card or card account from which the employee is able to withdraw or transfer funds.

- f. The provisions of this section, requiring prior written approval of the Governor relative to compensation, shall apply also to any system of incentive award payments which may be adopted and implemented by the Governor. The cost of implementing any such system shall be paid from any funds appropriated to the affected agencies.
- g. No lump sum appropriation for personal service shall be regarded as advisory or suggestive of individual salary rates or of salary schedules to be fixed under law by the Governor payable from the lump sum appropriation.
- h. Subject to approval by the Governor of a plan for a statewide employee meritorious service awards program, as provided for in § 2.2-1201, Code of Virginia, the costs for such awards shall be paid from any operating funds appropriated to the affected agencies.
- i. The General Assembly hereby affirms and ratifies the Governor's existing authority and the established practice of this body to provide for pay differentials or to supplement base rates of pay for employees in specific job classifications in particular geographic and/or functional areas where, in the Governor's discretion, they are needed for the purpose of maintaining salaries which enable the Commonwealth to maintain a competitive position in the relevant labor market.
- j.1. If at any time the Administrator of the Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council serves on the faculty of a state-supported institution of higher education, the faculty appointment must be approved by the Council. Such institution shall pay one-half of the salary listed in § 4-6.01 c 6 of this act. Further, such institution may provide compensation in addition to that listed in § 4-6.01 c 6; provided, however, that such additional compensation must be approved by the Council.
2. If the Administrator ceases to be a member of the faculty of a state-supported institution of higher education, the total salary listed in § 4-6.01 c 6 shall be paid from the Council's appropriation.
- k.1.a. Except as otherwise provided for in this subdivision, any increases in the salary band assignment of any job role contained in the compensation and classification plans approved by the Governor shall be effective beginning with the first pay period, defined as the pay period from June 25 through July 9, of the fiscal year if: (1) the agency certifies to the Secretary of Finance that funds are available within the agency's appropriation to cover the cost of the increase for the remainder of the current biennium and presents a plan for covering the costs next biennium and the Secretary concurs, or (2) such funds are appropriated by the General Assembly. If at any time the Secretary of Administration shall certify that such change in the salary band assignment for a job role is of an emergency nature and the Secretary of Finance shall certify that funds are available to cover the cost of the increase for the remainder of the biennium within the agency's appropriation, such change in compensation may be effective on a date agreed upon by these two Secretaries. The Secretary of Administration shall provide a monthly report of all such emergency changes in accordance with § 4-8.00, Reporting Requirements.
- b. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, state employees will be paid on the first workday of July for the work period June 10 to June 24 in any calendar year in which July 1 falls on a weekend.
2. Salary adjustments for any employee through a promotion, role change, exceptional recruitment and retention incentive options, or in-range adjustment shall occur only if: a) the agency has sufficient funds within its appropriation to cover the cost of the salary adjustment for the remainder of the current biennium or b) such funds are appropriated by the General Assembly.
3. No changes in salary band assignments affecting classified employees of more than one agency shall become effective unless the Secretary of Finance certifies that sufficient funds are available to provide such increase or plan to all affected employees supported from the general fund.
1. Full-time employees of the Commonwealth, including faculty members of state institutions of higher education,

who are appointed to a state-level board, council, commission or similar collegial body shall not receive any such compensation for their services as members or chairmen except for reimbursement of reasonable and necessary expenses. The foregoing provision shall likewise apply to the Compensation Board, pursuant to § 15.2-1636.5, Code of Virginia.

m.1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board of visitors or other governing body of any public institution of higher education is authorized to establish age and service eligibility criteria for faculty participating in voluntary early retirement incentive plans for their respective institutions pursuant to § 23.1-1302 B and the cash payment offered under such compensation plans pursuant to § 23.1-1302 D, Code of Virginia. Notwithstanding the limitations in § 23.1-1302 D, the total cost in any fiscal year for any such compensation plan, shall be set forth by the governing body in the compensation plan for approval by the Governor and review for legal sufficiency by the Office of the Attorney General.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, employees holding full-time, academic-year classified positions at public institutions of higher education shall be considered "state employees" as defined in § 51.1-124.3, Code of Virginia, and shall be considered for medical/hospitalization, retirement service credit, and other benefits on the same basis as those individuals appointed to full-time, 12-month classified positions.

n. Notwithstanding the Department of Human Resource Management Policies and Procedures, payment to employees with five or more years of continuous service who either terminate or retire from service shall be paid in one sum for twenty-five percent of their sick leave balance, provided, however, that the total amount paid for sick leave shall not exceed \$5,000 and the remaining seventy-five percent of their sick leave shall lapse. This provision shall not apply to employees who are covered by the Virginia Sickness and Disability Program as defined in § 51.1-1100, Code of Virginia. Such employees shall not be paid for their sick leave balances. However, they will be paid, if eligible as described above, for any disability leave credits they have at separation or retirement or may convert disability credits to service credit under the Virginia Retirement System pursuant to § 51.1-1103 (F), Code of Virginia.

o. It is the intent of the General Assembly that calculation of the faculty salary benchmark goal for the Virginia Community College System shall be done in a manner consistent with that used for four-year institutions, taking into consideration the number of faculty at each of the community colleges. In addition, calculation of the salary target shall reflect an eight percent salary differential in a manner consistent with other public four-year institutions and for faculty at Northern Virginia Community College.

p. Any public institution of higher education that has met the eligibility criteria set out in Chapters 933 and 945 of the 2005 Acts of Assembly may supplement annual salaries for classified employees from private gifts, endowment funds, or income from endowments and gifts, subject to policies approved by the board of visitors. The Commonwealth shall have no general fund obligations for the continuation of such salary supplements.

q. The Governor, or any other appropriate Board or Public Body, is authorized to adjust the salaries of employees specified in this item, and other items in the Act, to reflect the compensation adjustments authorized in this Act.

r. Any public institution of higher education shall not provide general fund monies above \$100,000 for any individual athletic coaching salaries after July 1, 2013. Athletic coaching salaries with general fund monies above this amount shall be phased-down over a five-year period at 20 percent per year until reaching the cap of \$100,000.