

# Legislative Department

The approved budget for the Legislative Department provides adjusted appropriations for current operations, based on action by the Joint Committee on Rules. In addition, funding is included to operate an interactive teleconferencing center for remote broadcast of General Assembly Building meetings, and for renovation of various committee-meeting rooms. Finally, authority is provided to allocate up to \$500,000 for redistricting costs in addition to the amount approved in HB 29.

- **General Assembly**
  - ***FOI Advisory Council.*** Includes \$181,538 GF the first year with 2.0 FTE positions and \$147,841 GF the second year with 1.5 FTE positions, for the Freedom of Information Advisory Council, established pursuant to House Bill 551 and Senate Bill 340, adopted by the 2000 General Assembly.

# Judicial Department

The approved budget for the Judicial Department contains a net increase of \$24.3 million GF over the adjusted appropriation for current operations.

- **Supreme Court of Virginia**
  - ***Nongeneral Fund Positions.*** Includes a technical reduction of 5.0 FTE positions to reflect the actual employment level.
  - ***Criminal Fund.*** Provides an additional \$4.1 million GF each year for increased costs of the criminal fund.
  - ***Court Automation.*** Includes \$3.5 million GF the first year and \$3.75 million GF the second year to begin a replacement program for the court system's aging computer network.
  - ***Mediation Services.*** Adds \$250,000 GF the first year and \$500,000 GF the second year to expand mediation services.
  - ***Indigent Defense.*** Includes \$5.2 million GF the second year to increase court-appointed attorneys' fees by approximately 24 percent in indigent criminal cases in both Circuit and District Courts, as provided in HB 1312 and SB 481.
  - ***Circuit Court Judgeships.*** Provides \$405,200 GF each year and 2.0 FTE positions for two new Circuit Court judgeships for the 12th and 17th Circuits, pursuant to HB724.
  - ***District Court Judgeship.*** Provides \$184,177 GF each year and 1.0 FTE position for one new Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court judgeship for the 14th District, pursuant to HB 755.
  - ***District Court Positions.*** Includes \$551,880 GF each year to add 17.25 new positions in District Court Clerks' offices statewide, based on workload formulas as determined by the Committee on District Courts.

- **State Board of Bar Examiners**
  - ***Additional Staff Position.*** Includes 1.0 FTE position for increased workload to certify out-of-state attorneys to the Virginia State Bar. SB 488 of 1998 authorized the Supreme Court to transfer the responsibility for issuing certificates to out-of-state attorneys to practice law in Virginia, without taking an examination. The 1999 Appropriation Act provided a sum sufficient appropriation from applicant fees deposited to the general fund (not to exceed \$50,000) for this purpose.
  
- **Virginia State Bar**
  - ***Dues Increase and Additional Staffing.*** Provides for an increase of \$977,629 NGF the first year and \$935,184 NGF the second year and 6.0 FTE positions to improve case management and information systems technology. The source of the nongeneral funds is a dues increase, which was approved by the Council of the Virginia State Bar in October, 1999, and by the Supreme Court of Virginia in January, 2000.
  - ***Community Tax Law Project.*** Provides \$50,000 GF each year for tax education, outreach, and representation for low-income Virginia taxpayers, through the Community Tax Law Project.

## Statewide Executive Offices

The approved budget for Statewide Executive Offices contains a net increase of \$1.1 million GF over the adjusted appropriation for current operations.

- **Attorney General of Virginia**
  - ***Civil Commitment of Sexual Predators.*** Defers a proposed budget increase and 5.0 additional positions related to workload associated with civil commitment of sexual predators, until an implementation plan and program is more fully developed. The effective date of this program was deferred by SB 261 of the 2000 General Assembly.
  - ***Computer Crime Unit.*** Includes an additional \$73,644 the first year, \$77,936 the second year, and 1.0 FTE position for the computer crime unit established by the 1999 General Assembly. These funds are intended to annualize the cost of the three positions created last year and to add one new investigator.
  - ***Medicaid Fraud.*** Includes an additional \$59,118 GF and \$177,355 NGF the first year, \$60,766 GF and \$182,229 NGF the second year, and 4.0 FTE positions to expand investigation into Medicaid Fraud and patient abuse.
  - ***Money Laundering Unit.*** Includes an additional \$65,338 GF the first year, \$66,221 GF the second year, and 1.0 FTE position to expand white collar crime and money laundering investigations.
  - ***Crimes Against the Elderly.*** Includes \$100,000 GF the first year and 2.0 FTE positions for a pilot crime prevention program (TRIAD), involving the elderly.
- **Secretary of the Commonwealth**
  - ***Certified Mail Requirements.*** Provides \$247,000 each year for the increased cost of postage for service of process, due to a change in the Code of Virginia which requires that these mailings include a certified return receipt.

- ***Salary Increase.*** Includes an additional \$37,488 each year for the increased salary and benefits associated with the elevation of the Secretary of the Commonwealth to cabinet-level status by Executive Order 31 (1994), and by action of the 1998 General Assembly.
- **Interstate Organization Contributions**
  - ***Increased Dues Cost.*** Provides a net increase of \$13,499 the first year and \$19,579 the second year to account for changes in the dues for several interstate organizations.