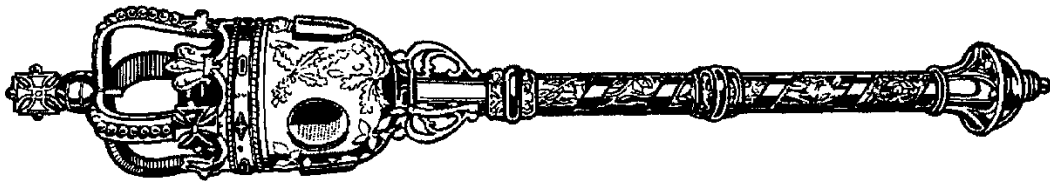


*Report of the
House Appropriations
Subcommittee*

on

Natural Resources



House Bill 1600

February 4, 2001

**Respectfully Submitted by the House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Natural Resources:**

James H. Dillard, II

Harvey B. Morgan

M. Kirkland Cox

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.

Kenneth R. Plum

Thomas M. Jackson, Jr.

Thomas W. Moss, Jr.

REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE on NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. Chairmen and Members of the Committee:

As we begin to face increased budgetary pressures, it is ever-more important that we strive to protect the vital natural resources of our Commonwealth, an area that continues to receive only one percent of our state budget.

We propose restoring funds for the preservation of lands for fish and wildlife habitat, natural areas, agriculture, forests and open space. This must continue to be a priority as we seek a balance between growth and conservation. We also recommend restoring funding to our great park system and our natural area preserves, where quality recreational opportunities are afforded our citizens; at the same time, we promote tourism while preserving our native plant and animal species.

Our second area of interest is protection of our valuable water resources. The Water Quality Improvement Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1997, continues to provide new funding for water quality programs. In just four years, this legislation has brought about unprecedented efforts to control point and nonpoint source pollution of the lakes, rivers, streams and bays of our great Commonwealth.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee wants to ensure the Water Quality Improvement Fund remains viable for its intended purpose. In that regard, we offer amendments to restore water quality funds while also providing appropriate funding for Combined Sewer Overflow projects, which seek to prevent the dumping of raw sewage into our rivers. Along with interest earnings from the Water Quality Improvement Fund, our amendments provide over \$6.0 million for water quality initiatives in the second year.

Finally, we recommend the restoration of funding to your local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, which provide a vital link in coordinating our efforts, literally at the grass roots.

We hope you will agree that the amendments, which follow go a long way toward restoring funding for our natural resources. I will ask staff to take you through the detailed amendments to House Bill 1600.

Following the staff explanation of our amendments, we hope it will be the pleasure of the Committee to adopt our recommendations.

Report of the Natural Resources Subcommittee

<u>Amendment</u>	2000-02 BIENNIAL TOTAL		
	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Nongeneral Fund</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Chesapeake Bay Commission			
Bi-State Blue Crab Advisory Committee			
Secretary Of Natural Resources			
Federal Funding			
Department Of Conservation And Recreation			
"Friend of the Chesapeake" License Plates		440,850	
Restore funding for SWCD	1,750,000		
Restore Soil Survey funding	260,000		
Natural Heritage Program	250,000		4.00
Nonpoint Source Water Quality Improvement Fund	1,692,000	500,000	
Virginia Outdoors Foundation	200,000		
Virginia Land Conservation Foundation	4,000,000		
State Parks Operations	500,000		15.00
Grand Caverns/Natural Chimneys Parks			
Mulberry Hill Acquisition			
James River State Park Gift			
Park Feasibility Assessment			
Department Of Environmental Quality			
Low-interest Loan Program			
Kerr Dam Reservoir Study			
Tangier Island Comprehensive Waste Plan		25,000	
Remove Water Quality Improvement Fund for CSO	1,700,000	992,000	
Point Source Water Quality Improvement Funds	(1,692,000)	3,045,393	
Department Of Game And Inland Fisheries			
Embrey Dam			
Lake Anna Volunteer Monitoring Program			
Department Of Historic Resources			
Maplewood and Floyd Webb Cemeteries	3,260		
Marine Resources Commission			
Crab Pot Tagging Program			2.00
Oyster Restoration	258,355		
Transfers			
Re-estimate of Watercraft Sales Transfer			
Transfer from Small Business Env. Asst. Fund			
Spending Total/House Bill 30	<u>8,921,615</u>	<u>5,003,243</u>	<u>21.00</u>