

Independent

The proposed 2002-04 budget for Independent agencies results in an increase of \$500,000 GF and \$29.8 million NGF. This funding supports a number of programs and initiatives ranging from educating consumers about choices regarding retail electricity providers in a competitive market to a host of administrative enhancements at the Virginia Retirement System that are intended to benefit members.

- **State Corporation Commission**
 - ***Consumer Education Program.*** Provides \$6.7 million NGF the first year and \$6.8 million NGF the second year to initiate an education program to assist consumers in making decisions regarding energy providers in a competitive retail electric market.
- **State Lottery Department**
 - ***Ticket Printing Authority.*** Provides \$2.4 million NGF in each year to enable the department to meet the increased cost of printing instant scratch lottery tickets.
- **Virginia College Savings Plan**
 - ***Virginia College Savings Plan Director's Salary.*** The proposed budget includes language that would increase the director's annual salary and authorize the Board of the Virginia College Savings Plan to grant an annual performance bonus of up to 20 percent.
- **Virginia Retirement System**
 - ***Volunteer Firefighters and Rescue Squad Workers Service Award Program (VOLSAP).*** Provides \$250,000 GF each year for administrative costs and to provide a supplemental contribution for the program as provided in Chapter 664, 1999 Acts of Assembly.
 - ***Base Budget Adjustment.*** Adds \$1.6 million NGF each year to provide funding to maintain services.
 - ***Benefit Communications Program.*** Provides \$400,000 NGF the first year and 11.0 FTE positions and \$514,000 NGF the second year to improve communications-related programs for VRS' various benefit programs.

- ***Retirement Processing Activities.*** Provides \$646,000 NGF the first year and 5.0 FTE positions and \$720,000 NGF the second year to provide better and timelier services to prospective retirees.
- ***VRS Technology Infrastructure.*** Provides \$2.2 million NGF the first year and 2.0 FTE positions and \$2.4 million NGF the second year to provide upgrades to the agency’s technology infrastructure.
- ***VRS Director’s Salary.*** The proposed budget includes language that would increase the director’s annual salary and authorize the Board to grant an annual performance bonus of up to 20 percent.