

Independent

The adopted amendments decrease the general fund appropriation for Independent agencies by \$100,000 and the nongeneral fund appropriation by a net of \$1.6 million. The net NGF reduction is the result of a \$13.8 million decrease in the distribution from the Uninsured Motorist Fund, which is partially offset by increases totaling \$12.5 million NGF. In addition, the budget requires the State Corporation Commission to transfer \$1.1 million in unobligated cash balances to the general fund in the first year of the biennium.

The approved nongeneral fund increases are predominantly under the Virginia College Savings Plan and include a \$10.0 million increase in the appropriation to meet expected payouts from the plan in the second year, as well as a \$675,000 increase to expand services and meet staffing needs.

The approved decrease to the general fund results from reduced funding of \$50,000 each year for the Volunteer Firefighter's and Rescue Squad Workers' Service Award program within the Virginia Retirement System budget.

- **Virginia Retirement System**

- *Provide Funding for Actuarial Services.* Includes \$200,000 NGF in the second year to cover actuarial expenses for the reevaluation of local retirement plans using the same actuarial assumptions used for the state employee and public school teacher plans. The costs for this analysis will be charged to the locality funded VRS plans.
- *Reduce GF Appropriation for Volunteer Firefighter's and Rescue Squad Worker's Service Award Program.* Assumes a reduction of \$50,000 GF in each year of the biennium related to the administrative cost and contribution supplements for the Volunteer Firefighter's and Rescue Squad Worker's Service Award program. The budget reduces the general fund support for the program from \$78,000 to \$28,000 each year to reflect actual costs incurred for the program.
- *Local Actuarial Assumptions.* Language allows counties, cities, towns, and local public school divisions to utilize optional actuarial assumptions for retirement plans, consistent with those used by the Commonwealth. The Virginia Retirement system is to develop minimum fiscal standards to be met by localities wishing to utilize these optional rates.

- **State Corporation Commission**

- *Transfer Unobligated Cash Balances to the General Fund.* Assumes the State Corporation Commission will transfer \$1.1 million in unobligated cash balances to the general fund in the first year of the biennium.

- *Reduce Appropriation for Distribution of Uninsured Motorist Fund.* Reduces the appropriation for the distribution payments from the Uninsured Motorist Fund by \$6.8 million NGF in the first year and \$7.3 million NGF in the second year to reflect action taken during the 2008 session allowing the Department of Motor Vehicles to retain a larger share of the funds.
 - *Funding for Additional Utility Safety Staff.* Provides five additional positions and \$390,000 NGF in the second year for the Utility Safety division which is needed due to increased workload. This proposal adds one associate general counsel and four additional inspectors to the division.
- **Virginia College Savings Plan**
 - *Increase Appropriation to Meet Expected Obligations.* Includes an increase of \$10.0 million NGF in the second year to meet projected increases in program payments including tuition, fees, other educational expenses and rollovers. The proposal increases the appropriation for VCSP payments from \$146.4 million to \$156.4 million in the second year.
 - *Increase Appropriation to Expand Services.* Recommends \$600,000 NGF in the second year to cover additional expenses related to the administration of the plan.
 - *Increase Appropriation to Cover Additional Expenses.* Proposes \$75,000 NGF in the second year to cover additional expenses related to providing services to other college savings plans at locations outside of Virginia.
- **Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission**
 - *Adjust Appropriation for Uninsured Employer's Fund.* Provides an increase of \$600,000 NGF each year for the uninsured employer's fund due to an increase in the volume of claims.
 - *Additional Staffing due to Workload Increases.* Recommends an additional 16 positions at the Commission in the first year due to increased workload.
 - *Relief of Kurt E. Beach.* Provides \$50,000 NGF the second year from the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission for relief of Kurt E. Beach, a former Smithfield Police Department investigator, who contracted hepatitis C while trying to revive an unconscious small child. The amendment also provides for the payment of \$20,000 each year from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2020 to compensate Mr. Beach for his ongoing health care needs.