

Technology

Amendments adopted for the Office of Technology for the 2008-2010 biennium result in general fund reductions totaling \$1.4 million and nongeneral fund reductions totaling \$10.2 million. Total general fund spending on the activities of the Technology agencies is \$16.0 million or 8 percent less than the appropriation in Chapter 879 of the 2008 Acts of Assembly. Total nongeneral fund spending for the biennium equals \$100.3 million or 9.25 percent less than current appropriations.

The approved budget includes a proposed merger of the Virginia Enterprise Applications Program Office (VEAP) into the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA). This merger, effective in the second year of the biennium, is designed to improve efficiency, productivity, and collaboration between these two agencies as well as with the Commonwealth's other state agencies. As part of this merger, VEAP's existing general fund appropriation is transferred in the second year to VITA. This general fund appropriation transfer of \$1.1 million represents the only additional spending item included in the secretariat's budget.

The approved budget also reduces the nongeneral fund appropriation for the Wireless E-911 program by \$6.0 million each year, and transfers that same amount to the Compensation Board for use in supporting dispatchers in local sheriffs' offices. This transfer is similar to one currently made to the Virginia State Police for their emergency response dispatchers.

- **Innovative Technology Authority**

- ***Reduce Investment Pool for Technology Companies.*** Includes savings of \$288,200 GF the first year and \$290,000 GF the second year from a 30 percent reduction in the number of companies supported by the Growth Acceleration Program.
- ***Reduce Funding for Virginia Electronic Commerce Technology Center (VECTEC).*** Saves \$125,000 GF each year by cutting funding for this program in half. A separate amendment transfers this program and the remainder of its funding to Christopher Newport University.
- ***Eliminate Support Services for Technology Research Funds.*** Includes savings of \$138,259 GF the first year and \$86,624 GF the second year by eliminating staffing support and associated costs for the Commonwealth Technology Research Fund and Virginia Research and Technology Advisory Commission.
- ***Consolidate Innovative Technology Authority Boards.*** Produces savings of \$458,003 GF the second year by restructuring the authority through the consolidation of the agency's governing board with an existing internal research and development board. However, it is more likely that these savings are associated with the development of a public-private partnership to redevelop the authority's properties into an integrated commercial and residential development.

This public-private partnership would produce lease revenue that could be used as a substitute for the authority's existing general fund support.

- **Virginia Information Technologies Agency**

- *Merge Virginia Enterprise Applications Program Office into VITA.* Includes \$1.1 million in general fund support and 19 positions the second year representing the funding associated with the Virginia Enterprise Applications Program Office (VEAP). VEAP is eliminated as a stand-alone agency and recreated as a division within VITA.
- *Establish Appropriation for the Virginia Election, Registration, and Information System (VERIS).* Provides an appropriation of \$1.8 million NGF for the ongoing system maintenance and development of VERIS. Originally transferred to VEAP from the Department of General Services, the funding is transferred to VITA's budget as part of the merger of VEAP and VITA.
- *Transfer Appropriations from Wireless E-911 Fund to Support Sheriff Dispatchers.* Reduces the appropriation for the Wireless E-911 Fund by \$6.0 million NGF each year and transfers this amount to the Compensation Board to support sheriff dispatchers. A similar transfer currently supports state police dispatchers.
- *Eliminate Use of Wage Staff and Contractual Services.* Includes savings of \$254,419 GF the first year and \$417,564 GF the second year from the elimination of wage positions and contractors that performed certain functions in lieu of VITA and VEAP's existing staff. Wage staff and contractors had been used by VITA to promote services to new customers, to assess the impact of the Information Technology Investment Board and Chief Information Officer's initiatives on statewide technology performance, and by VEAP to provide communications and special presentations, provide applications training to agencies, provide marketing services, and to perform data management and develop data standards.
- *Reduce Discretionary Spending for Information Technology Governance.* Produces savings of \$83,000 GF each year by reducing spending on consulting services, training, travel, and supplies for the staff who govern statewide security, audit, and compliance issues.
- *Transfer Technology Infrastructure Fund Balances.* Transfers \$342,626 in unobligated year-end balances from the Virginia Technology Infrastructure Fund to the general fund.
- *Reduce VITA Staffing.* This technical amendment reduces the agency's maximum employment level by 37 positions to reflect the attrition of employees from the out-sourcing of the Commonwealth's information technology infrastructure.