

Agriculture and Forestry

Amendments, as adopted, for the Agriculture and Forestry secretariat in the 2010-12 biennium totals \$84.4 million GF and \$85.9 million NGF. General fund amendments adopted for Agriculture and Forestry include increases of \$3.5 million GF offset by decreases of \$927,252 GF when to Chapter 874 of the 2010 Acts of Assembly. There is also a total increase of \$214,359 NGF offset by a decrease of \$540,000 NGF.

Amendments approved in Chapter 890 of the 2011 Acts of Assembly result in no change in positions at the Department of Forestry but an increase of three positions at the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

- **Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

- ***Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program.*** Provides an increase of \$1.1 million GF in FY 2012 to match local funding for the purchase of development rights program which is administered by the Office of Farmland Preservation. This amendment increases the budget for the PDR program from \$100,000 GF to \$1.2 million GF in FY 2012.
- ***Reduce Food Inspection Fee.*** Provides \$540,000 GF in FY 2012, offset by a reduction of \$540,000 NGF, for the food inspection program. Language is included restoring the annual food licensing fee to \$40. The annual fee was increased in the 2010 Session to \$100 as a general fund savings strategy. The amendment restores the general fund appropriation to the prior level.
- ***International Marketing.*** Provides an increase of \$460,000 GF in FY 2012 for promotion of Virginia agricultural products overseas. These efforts are to be coordinated with international efforts of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership in China, India, and/ or the European Union.
- ***Wine Promotion Fund.*** Increases the appropriation for the Virginia Wine Board in both FY 2011 and FY 2012 by \$278,708 GF. This increase is based on revised wine liter tax collections attributable to the sale of Virginia farm wines, which are dedicated for the promotion of Virginia farm wines pursuant to legislation passed by the 2010 General Assembly. With this increase, \$1.6 million GF will be available for this purpose each year. This adjustment also reflects the tax revenues from Virginia wines sold at ABC stores which was inadvertently excluded from the calculation last year.
- ***Tax Credit for Establishment or Expansion of Vineyards and Wineries.*** Included in the revenue page is a reduction of \$250,000 GF in FY 2012 based on legislation that was approved to establish a reimbursable tax credit program for the expansion of vineyards and wineries.

- ***Agriculture Stewardship Act Program.*** Provides \$185,962 in FY 2012 and 2.0 FTE positions as part of the Watershed Implementation Plan submitted by Virginia to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the clean-up of the Chesapeake Bay. These positions will help farmers meet requirements to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff into state waters in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- ***Dairy Inspection Position.*** Provides \$78,710 GF in FY 2012 and one position for a new dairy inspector to address deficiencies cited by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
- ***Restructure Consumer Protection Office.*** Includes a reduction of \$133,053 GF in FY 2012, offset by a corresponding increase in nongeneral funds, from restructuring the consumer protection enforcement unit and transferring two positions to federal funds.
- ***Eliminate Funding for Vacant Positions.*** Reduces funding by \$88,245 GF in FY 2012 by eliminating funding for four vacant positions in the Office of Meat and Poultry Services.
- ***Transfer Administrative Position to NGF.*** Includes a reduction of \$81,306 GF in FY 2012, offset by a corresponding increase in nongeneral funds, from transferring 80 percent of the funding for one administrative position in the Office of Consumer Protection to federal funds.
- ***Eliminate IT Contract.*** Reduces funding by \$62,806 GF in FY 2012 from eliminating the contract with a systems automation vendor for the bingo manager/ caller licensing system in the Office of Charitable Gaming.
- ***Reduce Funding for Milk Commission.*** Reduces funding by \$56,843 GF in FY 2012 for administrative support of the Milk Commission.
- ***USDA Rental Subsidy.*** Reduces funding by \$44,250 GF in FY 2012 from reducing rental assistance provided to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agriculture Statistics Services for office space in the Oliver Hill Building.
- ***Move Office of Charitable Gaming.*** Reduces funding by \$32,929 GF in FY 2012 from moving the Office of Charitable Gaming out of the James Monroe Building and consolidating it with VDACS offices in the Oliver Hill Building.
- ***Virginia Wine Distribution Company.*** Reduces funding for the Virginia Wine Distribution Company by \$13,675 GF in FY 2012.
- ***Agriculture Statistics Survey.*** Reduces support for the USDA survey of Virginia agribusiness by \$9,883 GF in FY 2012.
- ***Reclassify Manager Position.*** Includes a reduction of \$7,500 GF in FY 2012 from reclassifying a manager position to a lower level in the Commissioner’s Office.

- **Department of Forestry**

- ***Replacement of Firefighting Equipment.*** Provides \$286,719 GF in FY 2012 for approximately \$1.0 million in purchases to replace outdated equipment through the Master Equipment Lease Program.
- ***Maintain Four Vacant Positions.*** Reduces funding by \$139,954 GF in FY 2011 by keeping four positions vacant for the remainder of FY 2011. Funding to fill these four positions is provided in FY 2012.