

Natural Resources

Amendments, as adopted, for the 2010-12 biennium contained in the approved budget provide funding of \$215.3 million GF and \$554.4 million NGF for the Natural Resources secretariat. These amounts represent an increase of \$40.8 million GF and \$4.4 million NGF compared to Chapter 874 of the 2010 Acts of Assembly. The general fund total includes increases of nearly \$42.3 million GF, offset by reductions of \$1.5 million GF.

A majority of the general fund increase is accounted for by a statutorily-required deposit to the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) generated by 10 percent of the FY 2010 general fund revenue surplus and 10 percent of year-end, unreserved agency general fund balances. In total, \$36.4 million GF is deposited to the WQIF as required by the *Code of Virginia*, of which \$32.8 million GF is provided to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for nonpoint source pollution control projects and \$3.6 million GF is provided to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for point source pollution control projects. The balance of the general fund increase for the secretariat includes \$2.0 million GF for land conservation and preservation of Civil War historic sites, \$1.0 million GF for state parks, \$1.0 million GF for soil and water conservation districts, and \$800,000 for natural area preserves.

Nongeneral fund actions include the provision of \$1.8 million NGF for the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' (DGIF) Boating Safety and Regulation program, and, within the Department of Conservation and Recreation, increases of \$1.4 million NGF for the Open Space Fund, \$500,000 NGF for the Land Preservation Fund, \$311,777 for the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, and \$200,000 for the State Park Acquisition Fund.

- **Secretary of Natural Resources**

- *Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources.* Provides \$100,000 NGF in FY 2012 for the salary and benefits of a position that is dedicated to leading the execution of the Watershed Implementation Plan required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to meet newly established goals for cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay. The nongeneral funds are provided by a federal grant administered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.
- *Center for Coldwaters Restoration.* Includes language directing the Secretary of Natural Resources to determine if any of the agencies within the secretariat could relocate to the Center for Coldwaters Restoration in Waynesboro upon expiration of current leases.

- **Department of Conservation and Recreation**

- *Nonpoint Source Water Quality Improvement Fund Deposit.* Deposits \$32.8 million GF in FY 2011 into the Water Quality Improvement Fund for nonpoint source pollution control, which represents 90 percent of the deposit required by § 10.1-2128, *Code of Virginia* (the remaining 10 percent is provided for point source projects in DEQ). From this nonpoint source deposit, \$27.9 million GF is

transferred to the Natural Resources Commitment Fund for the implementation of agricultural best management practices to control nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment runoff from farming. The remaining \$4.9 million GF is deposited into the Water Quality Improvement Fund Reserve.

- ***Restore Funding for State Parks.*** Provides \$1.2 million GF in FY 2012 and 15.0 positions to both restore \$200,000 in proposed reductions from the introduced budget and \$1.0 million in prior year budget cuts. This represents a 23 percent restoration of budget cuts for state park operations.
- ***Funding for Land Conservation.*** Provides \$2.0 million GF in FY 2012 for land conservation. Out of this amount, \$1.0 million is provided to the Virginia Land Conservation Fund and \$1.0 million is to be transferred to the Department of Historic Resources for deposit to the Civil War Historic Site Preservation Fund.
- ***Soil and Water Conservation Districts.*** Provides \$1.0 million GF in FY 2012 to restore prior year budget cuts for soil and water conservation district operations.
- ***Natural Heritage Program.*** Provides \$800,000 GF in FY 2012 and 5.0 positions to restore prior cuts to the Natural Heritage Program and support emergency needs to protect natural area preserves.
- ***Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund.*** Provides \$311,777 NGF in FY 2012 for grants pursuant to the recommendations of the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund Advisory Committee using the proceeds from sales of the “Friends of the Chesapeake” license plates.
- ***Agricultural Best Management Practices Report.*** Includes language requiring DCR to report to the General Assembly the number of working farms and acres of farmland by region in Virginia, and the number and percentage of these farms that are utilizing agricultural best management practices.
- ***Dam Repair Cost Estimate.*** Includes language requiring DCR to evaluate the cost of upgrading all regulated dams owned by the state, soil and water conservation districts, local governments, and the private sector to current dam safety standards. DCR is to report the results of this evaluation to the Governor and General Assembly by September 30, 2011.
- ***Virginia Explore Park Status Report.*** Includes language requiring the Virginia Recreational Facilities Authority to provide an updated status report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the management plan, financial condition, and attainment of goals specified in House Document No. 17 (2010).
- ***Technical Adjustments to Nongeneral Fund Appropriations.*** Increases the base appropriations for four existing nongeneral funds in order to limit the need for administrative transfers when the General Assembly is not in session. These technical adjustments include increases of: \$700,000 NGF each year from a \$1.00

deed recordation fee charged in localities in which easements are held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation; \$250,000 NGF each year for the Land Preservation Fund from Land Preservation Tax Credit transfer fees collected by the Tax Department; \$100,000 NGF each year for the State Park Acquisition and Development Fund from revenues generated by sales of surplus state property; and, \$5,000 NGF each year for administrative expenses associated with the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund derived from the sale of “Friends of the Chesapeake” license plates.

- ***Turnover and Vacancy Savings.*** Provides for a reduction of \$251,616 GF in FY 2011 from savings generated by not filling vacant positions throughout the agency.
- ***Reduce Funding for Information Technology.*** Provides savings of \$65,524 GF in FY 2011 and \$78,734 GF in FY 2012 based on a reduction in the agency’s information technology inventory.
- ***Transfer Cost of Land Conservation Position to Nongeneral Funds.*** Provides savings of \$54,803 GF in FY 2011 by replacing general fund support for a land conservation position with Land Preservation Tax Credit fees.
- ***Reduce Nonpersonal Services Costs.*** Provides savings of \$15,866 GF each year by reducing expenditures related to training and travel.

- **Department of Environmental Quality**

- ***Point Source Water Quality Improvement Fund.*** Provides \$3.6 million GF in FY 2011 from the statutorily-required Water Quality Improvement Fund deposit for point source pollution control projects to remove nutrients from wastewater treatment plant discharges. Of this amount, \$546,645 is transferred to the Water Quality Improvement Fund Reserve. In addition, DEQ is authorized to utilize up to \$3.0 million to conduct a James River chlorophyll study pursuant to the Watershed Implementation Plan submitted to the EPA.
- ***Legal Costs for Environmental Regulations.*** Provides \$60,000 GF in FY 2011 and \$240,000 GF in FY 2012 for additional legal costs for the enforcement of and compliance with environmental regulations and other applicable laws on behalf of DEQ and DMME. Language allows the funds to be transferred to other state agencies as necessary.
- ***Renewable Energy Program.*** Provides \$25,657 GF in FY 2011 and \$74,390 GF in FY 2012 and 1.0 position for a staff member to assist with the issuance, monitoring, and enforcement of renewable energy permits.
- ***Reduce Fund Balance in Air Mobile Source Inspection Program.*** Includes an amendment within Part 3 transferring \$827,815 NGF in FY 2012 from the Inspection and Maintenance Fund to the general fund.

- ***Reduce Staffing in Agency Programs.*** Reduces funding by \$257,012 GF in FY 2012 through the elimination of 3.0 FTE positions within the agency.
- ***Reduce Water Quality Monitoring.*** Provides savings of \$194,217 GF in FY 2012 by eliminating two contracts with Virginia Commonwealth University for fish tissue analysis. Also, eliminates funding for a water quality monitoring position within DEQ.
- ***Eliminate Local Water Supply Planning Grants.*** Includes savings of \$80,000 GF in FY 2012 by eliminating all local water supply planning grants previously provided to localities.
- ***Eliminate Funding for Organizational Memberships.*** Includes a reduction of \$161,500 GF in Item 473 (Central Appropriations) eliminating funding in the second year for dues to the Interstate Commission of the Potomac River Basin (\$151,500 GF) and the Southeastern Enforcement Network (\$10,000 GF).

- **Department of Game and Inland Fisheries**

- ***Boating Safety and Regulation Program.*** Provides an increase of \$1.8 million NGF in FY 2012 for boating education and safety and boat titling and registration. The source of the nongeneral funds is derived from watercraft sales and use taxes and boat titling and registration fees.

- **Department of Historic Resources**

- ***Reduce Pass-through Payments to Montpelier.*** Reduces payments to Montpelier by \$11,965 GF in FY 2011 and \$147,040 in FY 2012 based on the required state match rate, which is \$0.20 for each \$1.00 of charitable contribution spent for restoration of Montpelier. Language expresses the intent of the General Assembly that the full grant amount be provided starting in FY 2013.
- ***Additional Civil War Grave Sites.*** Provides \$200 GF each year for the maintenance of 40 additional Confederate graves recognized in legislation passed by the 2010 Session of the General Assembly. Also provides \$1,550 GF in FY 2012 for the care of 310 graves at Fredericksburg Cemetery and \$2,035 for the care of 407 graves at Portsmouth Cedar Grove Cemetery, pursuant to legislation passed by the 2011 Session of the General Assembly.

- **Marine Resources Commission**

- ***Restore Funding for Marine Law Enforcement.*** Provides \$120,000 GF in FY 2011 and \$120,000 GF in FY 2012 for Marine Law Enforcement. Funding from the Law Enforcement division was being used to pay the agency's VITA bill.

- ***Transfer Marine Police Positions to Federal Funds.*** Reduces funding by \$109,577 GF in FY 2012 by supplanting funding for two Marine Police positions with federal funds.

- **Virginia Museum of Natural History**

- ***Collections Manager.*** Provides \$64,422 GF each year and one position to hire a manager primarily responsible for the care and maintenance of the museum’s collection of 20 million specimens to maintain the museum’s accreditation.
- ***Part-time Development Grant Writer.*** Provides \$33,495 GF and \$16,148 NGF each year to allow the museum to hire a part-time grant writer to help the museum secure additional nongeneral fund revenues.