

Natural Resources

Governor's Proposed Amendments				
(\$ in millions)				
	FY 2013 Proposed		FY 2014 Proposed	
	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>
2012-14 Current Budget (Ch. 3, Special Session I)	\$184.2	\$279.0	\$91.6	\$269.2
Proposed Increases	17.7	0.0	4.4	0.05
Proposed Decreases	<u>(0.0)</u>	<u>(0.0)</u>	<u>(0.6)</u>	<u>(0.05)</u>
\$ Net Change	17.7	0.0	3.7	0.0
HB 1500/SB 800, as Introduced	\$201.9	\$279.0	\$95.4	\$269.2
% Change	9.6%	0.0%	4.1%	0.0%
FTEs	1,017.50	1,160.50	1,015.50	1,160.50
# Change	0.00	0.00	(0.20)	0.00

- **Secretary of Natural Resources**

- *Council on Indians Support Services.* Includes a technical amendment removing 1.0 position due to the elimination of the Council on Indians, which was approved by the 2012 Session of the General Assembly.
- *Elimination of Required Deposit to WQIF Reserve.* Includes language stating that no deposit will be made to the Water Quality Improvement Fund Reserve. This reserve fund is used to ensure funding remains available for Virginia's water quality efforts when revenue surpluses are unavailable. The WQIF Reserve Fund was established by the General Assembly in 2004.

- **Chippokes Plantation Farm Foundation**

- *Merge Foundation into the Department of Conservation and Recreation.* Eliminates the Foundation as a stand-alone agency by transferring \$117,624 GF and \$67,794 NGF and 2.0 positions in the second year under DCR, pursuant to the actions of Chapters 803 and 835 of the 2012 Acts of Assembly. A companion amendment adds these corresponding funds and positions to DCR's budget.

- **Department of Conservation and Recreation Local Stormwater Assistance Program.** Authorizes the Virginia Public Building Authority to issue up to \$35.0 million GF in bonds for matching grants to local governments for eligible capital projects for the planning, design, and implementation of stormwater management practices to reduce water pollution loads. The Soil and Water Conservation Board is to issue eligibility and grant distribution guidelines. Eligible capital projects include: new stormwater management practices, stormwater retrofits, stream restoration, low impact development, buffer restoration, and wetland restoration. This effort is part of addressing the Virginia’s Watershed Implementation Plan.
- **Nonpoint Source Pollution Funding.** Provides \$16.9 million GF the first year, representing the entire year-end general fund surplus which is statutorily designated for deposit to the Water Quality Improvement Fund. Out of this amount, \$14.6 million is proposed for the implementation of agricultural best management practices through the Natural Resources Commitment Fund (8 percent of this amount is to be used by Soil and Water Conservation Districts for technical assistance). The remaining \$2.3 million is proposed for development of local storm water management programs. Because the entire statutory deposit is used for nonpoint programs, language is included to override the *Code of Virginia*, which would otherwise require 30 percent of the fund be used for wastewater treatment plant upgrades.
- **Soil and Water Conservation Districts.** Reorganizes funding for the state’s 47 soil and water conservation districts to include a new service area for the Agricultural Cost Share program and the shifting of \$1.9 million GF the second year in existing appropriations from the Stormwater Management service area to the Financial Assistance to Soil and Water Conservation Districts service area.
- **Transfer Environmental Education Programs.** Transfers \$292,299 GF and 4.0 FTE positions in the second year from the Department of Environmental Quality to DCR pursuant to the reorganization approved by Chapters 803 and 835 of the 2012 Acts of Assembly. A corresponding amendment removes the funding and positions from the DEQ budget.
- **Eliminate Vacant Positions and Reduce Discretionary Spending.** Proposes a net reduction of \$202,177 GF and 2.0 positions in the second year by eliminating vacant positions, reducing training and technology expenses, and reducing maintenance funding for Natural Area Preserves.

- **Department of Environmental Quality**

- **Point Source Water Quality Improvement Projects.** Authorizes the Virginia Public Building Authority to issue up to \$165.0 million in bonds for water quality improvement projects. These projects include: \$101.0 million to meet the state’s share of the costs for signed grant agreements for upgrading biological nutrient removal technology at publicly-owned wastewater treatment plants between FY 2014 and FY 2016; \$59.0 million for combined sewer overflow projects, including

\$40.0 million for the City of Richmond and \$19.0 million for the City of Lynchburg; and, \$5.0 million for the Hopewell Regional Wastewater Treatment Authority for the design and installation of nutrient removal technology.

- *Provide Funding for New Phone System.* Includes \$237,751 GF the second year for replacement of the agency's outdated phone system.
- *Coastal Aquifer System.* Provides \$100,000 GF the second year for monitoring the intrusion of saltwater into Virginia's coastal aquifer as part of a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey to protect public groundwater supply.
- *Provide Funding for Information Technology Rate Increases.* Adds \$707,822 GF each year for the payment of agency's VITA information technology charges. The 2011 Session of the General Assembly had appropriated \$800,000 to the agency for such charges, but in 2013, the agency was allocated \$112,000 in funding for its VITA IT charges. The additional funding essentially restores the funding originally appropriated to DEQ by the General Assembly.

- **Department of Historic Resources**

- *Conservation Easement Stewardship.* Provides \$73,102 GF and 1.0 position to support monitoring of conservation easements currently held by the agency and working with landowners to place additional easements.

- **Marine Resources Commission**

- *Oyster Replenishment.* Provides \$2.0 million GF the second year to enhance the agency's oyster replenishment efforts.
- *Replace Federal Funding.* Provides \$221,572 GF the second year to support two fisheries management technicians and two law enforcement positions that were previously funded through federal grants that have been eliminated due to federal budget reductions.
- *Tangier Island Seawall Project.* Provides an additional \$84,000 GF the second year to match federal funding for the first phase of a joint project with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for the construction of a breakwater jetty on the northern end of the island to prevent erosion and protect the island from storm surges. With \$12,000 GF already in the base budget, this amendment will provide a total of \$96,000 GF in the second year.

- **Virginia Museum of Natural History**

- *Distant Learning Classroom.* Proposes \$183,509 GF the second year to provide equipment to operate a distance learning classroom for the museum to connect to teachers, students, and scientists through two-way audio-video systems and podcasts.