

Natural Resources

Adopted Adjustments (\$ in millions)				
	FY 2013		FY 2014	
	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>
2012-14 Current Budget (Ch. 3, 2012 Special Session I)	\$184.2	\$279.0	\$91.6	\$269.2
Approved Increases	17.8	0.4	6.5	2.1
Approved Decreases	<u>(0.0)</u>	<u>(0.0)</u>	<u>(0.6)</u>	<u>(0.0)</u>
\$ Net Change	17.8	0.4	5.9	2.1
Chapter 806 (HB 1500, as Adopted)	\$202.0	\$279.4	\$97.5	\$271.3
% Change	9.7%	0.2%	6.4%	0.8%
FTEs	1,021.50	1,160.50	1,019.50	1,160.50
# Change	4.00	0.00	2.00	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 pursuant to Chapters 803 and 805 of the 2012 Acts of Assembly.
- *Required Deposit to WQIF Reserve.* Restores language that was eliminated in the introduced budget requiring that a deposit 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. A companion amendment to Item 360 provides a deposit to the reserve fund of \$1.3 million GF the first year.

- **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 the second year to DCR, pursuant to 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**

- ***Stormwater Local Assistance Fund.*** Language establishes a Stormwater Local Assistance Fund as a special nonreverting fund for matching grants to local governments for eligible capital projects for the planning, design, and implementation of stormwater management practices to reduce water pollution. 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 Virginia's Watershed Implementation Plan. A companion amendment to Item C-39.40 authorizes the Virginia Public Building Authority to issue up to \$35.0 million in bonds for these capital projects.
- ***Nonpoint Source Pollution Funding.*** Provides \$16.9 million GF the first year, representing the entire year-end general fund surplus that is statutorily designated for deposit to the Water Quality Improvement Fund. Out of this amount, \$14.6 million is provided for the implementation of agricultural best management practices through the Natural Resources Commitment Fund, including the 8 percent that is to be used by soil and water conservation districts for technical assistance. Of the remaining funds, \$1.3 million is deposited into the WQIF Reserve Fund for future needs and \$1.0 million is provided for grants to localities 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 have required that 30 percent of the funding 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. Also provides an additional \$300,000 GF the second year to increase the base operational support from \$80,539 per district up to \$86,922 per district for each of the 47 districts. Finally, language is added to require that DCR provide the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees with quarterly progress reports on the distribution of all funds to districts to address concerns with delayed payments over the past year.
- ***Dam Safety Fund.*** Includes an additional \$1.3 million GF the second year for deposit to the Dam Safety, Flood Prevention, and Protection Fund, producing a

total appropriation of \$1.9 million GF for dam safety projects. Out of the total amount, \$254,000 is provided for SWCD-owned dams for maintenance and small repairs; \$400,000 is provided to match federal and local funding for improving Todd Lake Dam in Augusta County; \$500,000 is allocated to the Lake Jackson Dam in Prince William County; and \$231,706 is provided the second year to complete improvements for a high hazard dam located in Botetourt County.

- ***Powhatan State Park.*** Provides \$200,000 GF the first year, \$400,000 GF the second year and 4.0 positions to open Powhatan State Park for day-use. The initial phase of park facility construction is complete and the park will be opened as soon as staff can be hired. A companion amendment to Item C-39.40 provides funding to complete Phase I development including campgrounds and funding for necessary road improvements to provide safe access to the park.
- ***Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail Interpretive Center.*** Authorizes the Division of State Parks to accept transfer of the facility upon completion of construction, as well as 153 acres of land and \$450,000 in nongeneral funds for ongoing maintenance. Development of the project is part of an agreement between the Coalfield Economic Development Authority; the Appalachian Regional Commission; the Scott County Economic Development Authority; the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail Association; Eastman Credit Union; and the Virginia Tobacco Commission, and includes up to \$4.0 million to construct the facility. Because the facility is not likely to be completed until next biennium, language expresses the General Assembly’s intent to provide positions and ongoing funding to support the facility, which will be operated as a satellite facility to Natural Tunnel State Park.
- ***Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund.*** Includes \$366,822 NGF the second year to allocate funds collected from the sale of “Friend of the Chesapeake Bay” license plates for the provision of grants to environmental organizations and eligible agencies for programs assisting in the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay. These grants were approved pursuant to the recommendations of the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund Advisory Committee.
- ***Transfer Environmental Education Programs.*** Transfers \$292,299 GF and 4.0 FTE positions 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.
- ***Natural Area Preserves.*** Restores \$50,000 GF the second year to the Natural Heritage program for projects to allow additional public access to Natural Area Preserves.

- ***Conservation Innovation Grants.*** Directs the Department of Conservation and Recreation to report on the number of Conservation Innovation Grants provided to Virginia farmers and other entities from the U.S. Department of Agriculture; any assistance the department provides to applicants for such grants; any financial assistance it may provide; and how such financial support is communicated to grant recipients or rescinded. This report is to be completed by October 15, 2003.
- ***Eliminate Vacant Positions and Reduce Discretionary Spending.*** Includes a net reduction of \$192,177 GF and 2.0 positions the second year by eliminating vacant positions, reducing training and technology expenses.

- **Department of Environmental Quality**

- ***Point Source Water Quality Improvement Projects.*** Includes \$101.0 million in bond proceeds to meet the state’s share of the costs for signed grant agreements to upgrade biological nutrient removal technology at publicly-owned wastewater treatment plants between FY 2014 and FY 2016. Provides \$75.0 million in bond proceeds for combined sewer overflow projects, including \$45.0 million for the City of Richmond and \$30.0 million for the City of Lynchburg. Moreover, language stipulates that this will be the final payment to Lynchburg as the City Council provided documentation that this amount will allow them to complete the project. Additional bond proceeds of \$5.0 million are provided to the Appomattox River Water Authority to increase drinking water supplies for Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, Prince George, Petersburg and Fort Lee; and, finally, \$5.0 million is provided for the Hopewell Regional Wastewater Treatment Authority for the design and installation of nutrient removal technology. A companion amendment to Item C-39.40 authorizes the Virginia Public Building Authority to issue up to \$186.0 million in bonds for these water quality improvement projects.
- ***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 \$687,225 GF the first year and \$687,225 GF the second year for the payment of the 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 only \$112,775 in funding for its VITA IT charges. The additional funding restores the amount originally appropriated to DEQ by the General Assembly.

- *W. E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center.* Provides \$85,000 GF the second year for the state’s share of the cost overruns associated with a new wastewater treatment plant for the facility.
- *Chesapeake Bay Education Field Studies.* Restores \$80,000 GF the second year for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to support K-12 educational field studies.
- **Department of Game and Inland Fisheries**
 - *Provide Soft Cost for New Headquarters.* Provides \$439,000 NGF the first year and \$1.7 million NGF the second year for soft costs related to construction of the agency’s new headquarters, including environmental impact fees, contingency fees, furniture, equipment and relocation expenses. The nongeneral funds are from cash balances as well as anticipated revenue from increases in the sale of hunting and fishing related items.
 - *Lake Anna Advisory Committee.* Includes language permitting the Lake Anna Advisory Committee to utilize funding previously provided for hydrilla control to address other environmental and safety issues on Lake Anna.
- **Department of Historic Resources**
 - *Civil War Historic Site Preservation Fund.* Increases the existing \$1.0 million appropriation by \$400,000 GF the second year to preserve a significantly endangered historic site. Any grants provided from the Fund must be matched by private funds.
 - *Jamestowne Church Tower.* Provides \$100,000 GF the second year to undertake the stabilization and repair of the historic colonial church tower. The Department is to enter into any contracts or agreements necessary to accomplish this purpose.
 - *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**
 - *Marine Life Management.* Provides \$221,572 GF the second year to support two fisheries management technicians and two law enforcement officers that were previously funded with federal grants, which are expiring.
 - *Oyster Replenishment.* Provides an additional \$1.5 million the second year for a net of \$2.0 million GF to enhance the agency’s oyster replenishment efforts.

- *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 the second year.

- **Virginia Museum of Natural History**

- *Distance Learning Classroom.* Provides \$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.