

Agriculture and Forestry

Proposed Adjustments as Introduced				
(\$ in millions)				
	FY 2019 Proposed		FY 2020 Proposed	
	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>
2016-18 Base Budget, Ch. 836	\$53.9	\$53.3	\$53.9	\$53.3
Proposed Increases	2.7	1.3	2.5	1.3
Proposed Decreases	<u>(0.1)</u>	<u>(0.5)</u>	<u>(0.1)</u>	<u>(0.5)</u>
\$ Net Change	2.6	0.8	2.4	0.8
HB/SB 30, as Introduced	\$56.5	\$54.1	\$56.3	\$54.2
% Change	4.9%	1.5%	4.5%	1.5%
FTEs	498.59	337.41	498.59	337.41
# Change	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00

- **Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry**

- *Secretariat Operating Costs.* Proposes to increase the appropriation to the Office of the Secretary by \$107,500 (28 percent) each year from the general fund to support operations of the Office.

- **Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

- *Industrial Hemp Research Program.* Proposes \$156,395 GF each year and 2.00 FTE positions for marketing, staffing, and expansion of the industrial hemp research program. It is anticipated that the funding would allow VDACS to establish a registration program to allow all individuals and institutions of higher education to participate in growing and processing industrial hemp for research purposes. While the proposed funding and position increases are included in the introduced bill, there is no controlling language to describe the purpose of the funding or authorization for the expansion.
- *Food Programs Study.* Recommends VDACS, in collaboration with the Department of Health, to assess the long-term funding of the food safety and restaurant inspection programs with an emphasis on assessing the likelihood of additional general fund resources for this activity, the establishment of a flexible

fee schedule, and the consolidation of the two programmatic activities to achieve programmatic efficiencies. The proposed plan, and accompanying draft legislation, would be due no later than October 1, 2018. A companion amendment is included in the Department of Health.

- *Virginia Wine Promotion Fund.* Proposes an increase of \$256,198 GF each year to the fund to reflect increased wine liter tax collections that are dedicated by statute to the fund, bringing the total to approximately \$2.3 million per year.
- *Authorize Sale of Eastern Shore Produce Market.* Includes language in Part 3-1.01 to authorize VDACS, in cooperation with the Department of General Services, to sell the New Market Office Building and Produce Warehouse which is located in Melfa, Virginia. After any requisite remediation costs and bond defacement costs, the remaining proceeds would be deposited to the general fund.
- *Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund.* Includes \$1.0 million from the general fund each year to support grants or loans for the AFID program. Also proposes \$221,473 GF each year to support administrative costs of the program. Both are maintained at the level funded in Chapter 836 of the 2017 Acts of Assembly.
- *Farmland Preservation.* Proposes \$250,000 GF each year to the Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund to be used to provide matching grants to local purchase of development rights programs. The funding level mirrors the amounts authorized in the current fiscal year.

- **Department of Forestry**

- *Enhance Nursery Capacity.* Proposes a one-time increase of \$236,000 GF the first year for the Tree Restoration, Nurseries and State-Owned forest land program to begin production of containerized longleaf and loblolly pine seedlings.

- **Virginia Racing Commission**

- *Authorization for Simulcast Racing.* Includes language expanding the definition of “simulcast horse racing” to include live or pre-recorded horse racings and authorizes the Commission to regulate the wagering handle on pre-recorded races.