

Natural Resources

Adopted Amendments				
(\$ in millions)				
	FY 2019 Adopted		FY 2020 Adopted	
	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>
2018-20 Current Budget (Chapter 2, 2018 Special Session I)	\$156.5	\$273.7	\$117.2	\$273.1
Increases	\$31.5	\$1.7	\$154.4	\$3.0
Decreases	<u>(25.6)</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>(72.2)</u>	<u>0.0</u>
\$ Net Change	\$5.9	\$1.7	\$82.3	\$3.0
Chapter 854 (HB 1700, as Adopted)	\$162.4	\$275.4	\$199.4	\$276.1
% Change	3.7%	0.6%	70.2%	1.1%
FTEs	1,030.50	1,159.50	1,039.50	1,161.50
# Change	0.00	0.00	7.00	2.00

- **Secretary of Natural Resources**

- *Virginia Capital Trail Stakeholders Workgroup.* Includes language directing the Secretaries of Natural Resources and Transportation convene a stakeholder workgroup to assess the costs and feasibility of transferring any sponsorship and related maintenance support responsibilities for the Virginia Capital Trail partnership from the Department of Transportation to the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The stakeholder workgroup, including representatives from the Virginia Capital Trail Foundation and affected local governments, is directed to complete its work by October 1, 2019. The Virginia Capital Trail is a 52-mile linear trail that runs between downtown Richmond and Jamestown along the Route 5 corridor.
- *Regional Climate Initiatives.* Two amendments to the special conditions and restrictions on expenditures within Part 4 of the Appropriation Act are included that: i) prohibit the use of any funds appropriated by the General Assembly to support membership or participation in any climate change compact without the

express approval of the General Assembly; and ii) direct any monies derived from projects or programs of regional climate change compacts, such as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative or the Transportation Climate Initiative, be deposited to the general fund and not used for any purpose without direct appropriation by the General Assembly.

- **Department of Conservation and Recreation**

- ***Statutory Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) Deposit Based on FY 2018 Surplus and Agency Balances.*** Appropriates a total of \$73.8 million to the WQIF in FY 2020 for the mandatory Part A and Part B deposits based on the FY 2018 revenue surplus and unencumbered agency balances. The deposit is distributed as follows:

- \$8.3 million is deposited to the WQIF Reserve Fund;
- \$4.25 million is set aside for special projects as follows: 1) \$1.0 million to match federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) funds within the Chesapeake Bay watershed; 2) \$1.0 million to match federal CREP funds outside the Chesapeake Bay watershed; 3) \$1.0 million for the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP); 4) \$750,000 for special projects related to poultry litter transportation, or development and certification of Resource Management Plans (RMPs); and, 5) \$500,000 to the Department of Forestry for water quality grants; and,
- \$61.2 million is transferred to the Natural Resources Commitment Fund (NRCF). Of this total, \$37.3 million, or 61 percent, is dedicated to agricultural best management practices (Ag BMPs) within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed; \$16.0 million, or 26 percent, is dedicated to Ag BMPs outside the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and \$8.0 million, or 13 percent, is used for technical assistance for Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs).

Embedded in these actions is an increase in the share of funding dedicated to SWCD technical assistance from 8 percent to 13 percent, an increase in the share directed to projects inside the Chesapeake Bay Watershed from 55 percent to 61 percent, and a corresponding reduction in the share for projects outside of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed from 37 percent to 26 percent. One additional policy shift is the inclusion of WQIF funds for the VCAP program. Previously funding for the program came from federal grants and from DEQ. VCAP is used to address urban best management practices.

- ***Eliminate Livestock Stream Exclusion Backlog.*** Includes an additional, one-time, appropriation of \$5.9 million GF in FY 2019 to the WQIF in order to eliminate the current backlog of previously approved livestock stream exclusion (SL-6) projects. From these amounts, \$4.6 million is to be used for practices outside the Chesapeake

Bay Watershed, \$608,000 is to be used for SL-6 projects inside the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and the remaining \$676,000 is to be distributed to the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Districts to provide technical assistance to farmers implementing agricultural best management practices.

- ***Soil and Water Conservation District Owned High Hazard Dam Monitoring Equipment.*** Includes \$400,000 GF in the second year for the purchase and installation of remote monitoring equipment for high and significant hazard dams owned by Virginia's Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Significant rainfall events in the past several years highlighted the need for the remote monitoring of District-owned dams in remote locations, as unforeseen weather conditions make it difficult for District staff to monitor certain dams during rainfall events.
- ***Local Dam Safety Initiatives.*** Includes a total of \$5.4 million GF in the second year the Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund. The Fund supports grants to local governments and private entities for investments in dam safety improvements across the State. Project requests can include financial assistance for engineering services, gate valve evacuation and repair, erosion stabilization projects the development of flood hazard mitigation strategies and plans. Included in these amounts is:
 - an increase of \$267,853 in FY 2020 for local matching grants, bringing the appropriation to \$732,147 in the second year. In the FY 2018 grant round, there were requests for \$1.2 million from the Fund;
 - a one-time increase of \$100,000 in the second year to hire a independent engineering firm to identify alternate solutions for the rehabilitation of the Cherrystone and Roaring Fork dams; and,
 - a one-time investment of \$5.0 million to match local funding provided by the City of Lynchburg for lakebed stabilization, sediment control and removal, wetland creation, dam safety and streamflow improvements for College Lake, a central stormwater basin in the City which suffered significant damage in a severe rainfall event in August 2018.
- ***Increase Appropriation to Support LPTC Program.*** Includes a reduction of \$133,400 in the transfer to the general fund from the amounts generated by Land Preservation Fund and a corresponding increase of nongeneral funds for DCR in the second year to hire 1.00 FTE position to increase its oversight of the land preservation tax credit. Companion legislation to decrease from \$1.0 million to \$500,000 the tax credit requests DCR must approve failed to pass the 2019 General Assembly, however the additional position is intended to improve coordination among agencies that administer the LPTC program.

- ***Virginia Outdoors Foundation.*** Removes language artificially capping the transfer of funds to the Open Space Land Preservation Trust Fund. The provisions of §10.1-1020, *Code of Virginia*, direct 25 percent of the funds deposited to the Virginia Land Conservation Fund for this purpose.
- ***Support Daniel Boone Wilderness Interpretive Center Operations.*** Includes an appropriation of \$257,187 GF and 1.00 FTE position the second year to support the operations of the Daniel Boone Wilderness Interpretive Center. Existing language in Chapter 2 of the 2018 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I, provides for a transfer of the Center to DCR. A companion Capital Outlay amendment authorizes DCR to accept the Center and surrounding acreage.
- ***Fund Limited Opening of Clinch River State Park.*** Provides \$534,159 and 2.00 FTE positions from the general fund to support the limited opening of the park, to include hiking trails, picnic and parking areas and water access points for visitors.
- ***Acquire Land for Middle Peninsula State Park.*** Authorizes a supplemental nongeneral fund appropriation from the State Park Acquisition Fund of \$145,000 in the first year for the Middle Peninsula State Park being developed in accordance with the provisions of the Surry-Skiffes Creek Transmission Line Mitigation Agreement.
- ***Provide Funding to Acquire Land for State Parks and Natural Area Preserves.*** Amendments in Capital Outlay increase the nongeneral fund appropriations for the acquisition of State Parks and Natural Area Preserves by \$2.2 million in FY 2019 and \$8.4 million in FY 2020. This includes planned acquisitions at the Sailor’s Creek Battlefield, Shenandoah River, and Wilderness Road State Parks, as well as authorization to accept donations of property to develop a state park in Loudoun County. Also assumed are acquisitions at seven Natural Area Preserves.
- ***Mendota Trail.*** Includes a one-time appropriation of \$50,000 GF the second year in partnership with the Mendota Trail Project for the engineering and construction of a prototype for a covered container bridge across a 200-ft span. The Mendota Trail is a 12.5 mile recreational trail linking the City of Bristol to the Town of Mendota on a former railroad bed. The City of Bristol acquired the property and has transferred it to Mountain Heritage, Inc., a nonprofit organization with responsibility for upkeep of the Mendota Trail. The first mile of the trail opened the public in October 2017 and the first of 17 trestles has been rehabilitated. In order to open a five-mile section of the trail, repairs are needed on a 193-foot long trestle which is to be uniquely repaired through the construction of bridge made from aluminum shipping containers.
- ***First Landing State Park Mountain Bike Trails.*** Includes \$50,000 GF the second year for further development of a handicapped accessible mountain bike trail at

First Landing State Park. This appropriation is in addition to a \$50,000 appropriation for FY 19 that was included in Chapter 2.

- ***State Park Wayfinding and Accessibility Improvements.*** A series of amendments at the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Department of Transportation increase the use of Commonwealth Transportation Funds for signage and accessibility improvements throughout the Virginia State Park System.
 - The first amendment provides \$350,000 the first year and \$70,000 the second year for the fabrication and installation of Supplemental Guide Signs for Virginia State Parks. The fiscal year 2016-18 budget previously included language allowing the use of VDOT Recreational Access Funds to install replacement signs for State Parks. To date, approximately \$750,000 has been spent upgrading signs for Virginia State Parks and Natural Area Preserves, and the additional funding will address new Park locations including the New River Trail and Clinch River State Parks.
 - Includes language directing the Commonwealth Transportation Board prioritize allocation of up to \$250,000 annually from the Recreational Access Roads for handicapped accessibility improvements at Virginia State Parks, including improvements to handicapped access points and parking facility enhancements as may be requested by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

- **Department of Environmental Quality**

- ***Stormwater Permitting Fees.*** Modifies language included in the 2018 Appropriations Act (Chapter 2) establishing a voluntary fee for the expedited review of stormwater review permits for land disturbance acreage equal to or greater than 100 acres to expand the process to include any Virginia Stormwater Management Program Authority and to limit the requirement that any portion of the normal fee above the normal fee be used to support additional staff for the program is limited to only the portion of fees paid to the Department of Environmental Quality.
- ***Ammonia Discharge Criteria.*** Includes language directing the Department to update its 2018 report on Flexibilities for Virginia's Permitted Dischargers Implementing EPA's 2013 Nationally-Recommended Ammonia Criteria to include existing or potential permitting procedures and practices that are not prohibited by the Clean Water Act but which would provide relief to permitted dischargers
- ***Virginia Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permitting.*** Directs the State Water Control Board to update the Virginia Pollution Discharge Elimination System discharge permit compliance schedule regulations into conformity with the

comparable federal regulation of the Environmental Protection Agency most recently revised in May 2000.)

- ***Provide Funding for Online Service Upgrades.*** Provides \$859,075 and 5.00 FTE positions from the general fund in the second year to support web site redesign and the development and maintenance of an online portal. The DEQ website was last updated in 2011 and is not designed to be responsive to mobile devices. Two of the positions are dedicated to this upgrade. The remaining funds, and three positions, are provided for the development of a DEQ portal to enable intake and reporting of permits and other DEQ data. Regulated entities with multiple permits or dealings with the agency will have a “one stop shop” to conduct business with the agency.
- ***Stormwater Local Assistance Fund.*** Authorizes an additional appropriation of \$10.0 million from bond proceeds in FY 2020 for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF). Chapter 2 included \$20.0 million in FY 2019 for this purpose.
- ***Alexandria CSO.*** A stand-alone Capital Outlay amendment in Part 2, authorizes \$25.0 million in general fund supported bonds to address improvements related to Alexandria’s Comprehensive Sewer Overflow project.

- **Department of Game and Inland Fisheries**

- ***Increase Nongeneral Fund Appropriation for Agency Operations.*** Includes a nongeneral fund appropriation increase of \$1.35 million each year for the department to help absorb costs associated with the pay raise contained in Chapter 2 and other increases associated with agency operations.
- ***Increase Nongeneral Funds for Mitigation and Settlement Activities.*** Reflects an increase of \$230,000 the first year and \$1,160,000 the second year from nongeneral fund settlement revenues to support restoration activities at Hog Island and mussel propagation efforts.

- **Department of Historic Resources**

- ***Historic African American Graves.*** Provides an additional \$17,270 from the general fund each year to support the care of 3,454 African American graves at 19 cemeteries in five localities. The payment rate is set at \$5.00 per grave per year. The amounts provided are as follows

<u>County</u>	<u>\$ Amount</u>
Pulaski	385
Suffolk	2,340
Hampton	3,855
Martinsville	975
Alexandria	9,715

- *Weston Plantation.* Provides \$100,000 GF the second year to assist the Historic Hopewell Foundation and Weston Plantation with foundation and brickwork, necessary kitchen repairs and siding improvements on the historic structure.
- *Greensville County Training School.* Allocates \$70,000 GF in the second year to the Citizens United to Preserve Greensville County Training School. Built in 1912, the facility is a small wood frame building that contributed to African American education in Emporia for more than fifty years. The Greensville County Training School has been on the National Registry of Historic Places since 2006.

- **Marine Resources Commission**

- *Increase Funding for Oyster Restoration and Replenishment.* Provides an additional \$1.0 million GF in the second year to support oyster replenishment and restoration activities. This would bring total funding to \$2.5 million for replenishment and \$1.5 million for restoration in FY 2020.

- **Virginia Museum of Natural History**

- *Replace Telephone System.* Provides \$45,671 from the general fund in the second year to replace the telephone and voice mail systems at the Museum of Natural History.