

Natural Resources

Governor's Proposed Amendments				
(\$ in millions)				
	FY 2021 Proposed		FY 2022 Proposed	
	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>
2020-22 Current Budget (Ch. 56, 2020 Special Session I)	\$211.9	\$284.2	\$199.3	\$283.0
Proposed Increases	0.3	0.0	36.7	0.2
Proposed Decreases	<u>(10.0)</u>	<u>(0.0)</u>	<u>(40.0)</u>	<u>(0.0)</u>
\$ Net Change	(9.7)	0.0	(3.3)	0.2
HB 1800/SB 1100 as Introduced	\$202.3	\$284.2	\$196.0	\$283.2
% Change	(4.6%)	0.0%	(1.7%)	0.1%
FTEs	1,022.00	1,157.00	1,031.00	1,157.00
# Change	0.00	0.00	9.00	0.00

- **Department of Conservation and Recreation**

- *Allocation of Mandatory and Supplemental Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) Deposit.* Proposes to appropriate a total of \$39.4 million to the WQIF in FY 2022, reflecting both a mandatory deposit of \$30.4 million based upon FY 2020 agency balances and a supplemental deposit totaling \$9.0 million, in addition to \$4.55 million GF included in FY 2022 for base technical assistance funding provided to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The Governor recommends to utilize the deposit as follows:

- \$35.0 million GF in FY 2022 to be deposited in the Natural Resources Commitment Fund (NRCF), with \$24.5 million used for Agricultural Best Management Practices within the Chesapeake Bay watershed and \$10.5 million for Agricultural Best Management Practices outside the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Additionally, the remaining \$4.35 million would be used to provide \$500,000 for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP); \$500,000 for the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP);

\$1.0 million for special nonpoint source reduction projects including poultry litter transportation and development of Resource Management Plans; \$250,000 for the Small Farm Outreach Program; \$250,000 for the Department of Forestry water quality grants; \$500,000 for the Virginia Trees for Clean Water program; \$1.0 million to the Department of Environmental Quality for the Clean Water Financing and Assistance Program; \$100,000 to the Department of Health for analysis of statewide septic hotspots and mapping of communities with failing or failed onsite wastewater treatment; and \$250,000 for development and maintenance of the Conservation Application Suite.

- ***Project Harmony.*** Proposes \$5.0 million GF the second year for Project Harmony in support of the establishment of the Harmony Living Shoreline Memorial and activities to repatriate the tombstones of the former Columbian Harmony Cemetery, located in Washington D.C. The proposed authorizing language allows for the funds to be used for all aspects of the project, including but not be limited to the location, recovery, and cataloging of tombstones from the shoreline of the Potomac River; transportation of tombstones to New Harmony cemetery in Landover, Maryland; and, the installation of Harmony Living Shoreline memorial using remaining materials from the former Columbian Harmony Cemetery that cannot be recovered.
- ***Acquisition and Reclamation of Chickahominy Tribe Land.*** Recommends \$3.5 million GF the second year to be provided to the Chickahominy Tribe to assist in the acquisition and restoration of tribal lands.
- ***Increase Support for Natural Heritage Area.*** Proposes \$1.0 million GF the second year and five positions to improve public safety and access to Natural Area Preserves. Of the new positions, three will be public access coordinators to handle increased visitor traffic being experienced at Virginia’s Natural Area Preserves.
- ***Increase Appropriation for State Park Operations.*** Proposes \$556,000 GF the second year to increase support for state park maintenance, supplies, and the hiring of additional wage staff. This is a restoration of funding that had been approved during the 2020 Session, but was subsequently unallotted.
- ***Address Agency Pandemic-Related Costs.*** Recommends \$300,000 GF the first year to address increased personnel costs resulting from pandemic response activities.
- ***Dam Safety Floodplain Manager.*** Proposes the \$400,395 GF the second year and three positions in the Dam Safety and Floodplain Management Program. Of these, two positions are intended to provide assistance to Virginia residence and localities to ensure compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program. This is a

restoration of had been approved during the 2020 Session, but was subsequently unallotted.

- ***Distribute Budget Reductions from Central Appropriations to Agency Budget.*** Reduces by \$2.5 million GF the first year and \$27.2 million GF the second year the agency’s general fund budget to reflect approved budget reductions in Chapter 56 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I (HB 5005). These reductions were originally unallotted in Chapter 1289 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly (HB 30) and subsequently converted to budget reductions in 2020 Special Session I. The vast majority relates to a supplemental WQIF deposit that has been replaced by the deposit resulting from the FY 2020 agency balances.
- ***Increase Nongeneral Fund Appropriation for State Park Projects Fund.*** Recommends increasing the appropriation for the State Park Projects Fund by \$200,000 NGF the second year to reflect anticipated revenues and expenditures.
- ***State Park and Natural Preserve Acquisition List.*** Amendments to Part 2 propose to increase by \$500,000 NGF the first year and \$800,000 NGF the second year support for state park land acquisition, and updates the list of parks and natural area preserves to expand acquisitions of property. Specifically, the amendment adds Highbridge Trail, Staunton River, and Grayson Highlands State Parks and removes Westmoreland. With respect to natural areas, Dendron Swamp, Magothy Bay, and Lyndhurst Ponds would be added and would remove Antioch Pines and Camp Branch Wetlands from the list of properties the Department is authorized to purchase property within or adjacent to.

- **Department of Environmental Quality**

- ***Increase Appropriations for Monitoring and Compliance Activities.*** Proposes a total of \$12.0 million GF the second year be provided for positions, equipment and contractual work for monitoring, compliance, permitting, and policy activities in the Air Protection (\$2.0 million); Land Protection (\$1.7 million); and, Water Protection (\$8.3 million) programs. This is a restoration of funding that had been approved during the 2020 Session, but was subsequently unallotted.
- ***Conformity with Federal Hydrofluorocarbon Requirements.*** Proposes a clarifying amendment directing the Department to expeditiously propose a rule to conform state regulations regarding the use of hydrofluorocarbons to federal Clean Air Act requirements should new rules be adopted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
- ***Continue Water Quality Enhancement Fee.*** Proposes the re-implementation of the water quality enhancement fee paid by nutrient credit banks upon application for credits, at a rate equal to five percent of the amount paid for credits. A similar

proposal included by the Governor in HB 5005/SB 5050 (2020 Special Session I) to continue the water quality enhancement fee at a rate of 6 percent was rejected by the General Assembly. The language proposed by the Governor in HB 1800/ SB 1100 also establishes a workgroup of affected stakeholders to make recommendations to improve the long-term sustainability of the water quality enhancement fee and report to the Governor and General Assembly by November 1, 2021.

- ***Distribute Budget Reductions from Central Appropriations to Agency Budget.*** Reduces by \$6.2 million GF the first year and \$12.0 million GF the second year the agency’s general fund budget to reflect approved budget reductions in Chapter 56 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I (HB 5005). These reductions were originally unallotted in Chapter 1289 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly (HB 30) and subsequently converted to budget reductions in 2020 Special Session I. The second year amounts are offset by a corresponding increase in staffing for these activities listed above.

- **Department of Historic Resources**

- ***Replace Robert E. Lee Statue in U.S. Capitol.*** Proposes \$35,000 GF the first year and \$483,500 GF the second year for the removal of the Robert E. Lee statute in the Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol building and the design and installation of a statue of Barbara Rose Johns as its replacement.
- ***Fund Cemetery Preservation Position.*** Includes \$108,000 GF the second year for the Department to hire a cemetery preservation specialist.
- ***Distribute Budget Reductions from Central Appropriations to Agency Budget.*** Reduces by \$732,144 GF the first year and \$740,714 GF the second year the agency’s general fund budget to reflect approved budget reductions in Chapter 56 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I (HB 5005). These reductions were originally unallotted in Chapter 1289 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly (HB 30) and subsequently converted to budget reductions in 2020 Special Session I.

- **Marine Resources Commission**

- ***Coastal Resiliency Manager.*** Proposes \$78,150 GF the second year for a coastal resiliency manager to manage the Waterways Improvement Fund. This is a restoration of what had been approved during the 2020 Session, but was subsequently unallotted.
- ***Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.*** Recommends \$18,672 GF the second year through a pilot program to use unmanned aerial vehicles to assist in patrolling coastal areas.

This is a restoration of what had been approved during the 2020 Session, but was subsequently unallotted.

- ***Outboard Motors.*** Proposes \$14,710 GF the second year to purchase six replacement outboard motors for law enforcement. This is a restoration of what had been approved during the 2020 Session, but was subsequently unallotted.

- ***Distribute Budget Reductions from Central Appropriations to Agency Budget.*** Reduces by \$575,153 GF the first year and \$135,845 GF the second year the agency's general fund budget to reflect approved budget reductions in Chapter 56 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I (HB 5005). These reductions were originally unallotted in Chapter 1289 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly (HB 30) and subsequently converted to budget reductions in 2020 Special Session I.