

Governor's Proposed Amendments 2016-2018 Appropriation Act (House Bill 1500, as Adopted)

Amendment No. 1 Item 0 – Revenues Technical - Capture Prior Year Recovery

General Assembly Action: Adopted the “front page” revenue adjustments reflected in the General Assembly’s amendments to House Bill 1500 as introduced.

Governor's Action (Technical): The proposed amendment increases the revenues assumed in the first year by \$200,000 to reflect a prior year expenditure refund received by the Department of Treasury during the current fiscal year that was not reflected in the enrolled budget. The recovery resulted from lower than originally projected costs for an office maintenance/renovation project.

Notes:

- The front page will be adjusted to reflect the cumulative impact of amendments adopted by the General Assembly.

Amendment No. 2 Item 0 – Revenues Technical –Make Technical Correction to Assumed Revenue

General Assembly Action: The General Assembly rejected a proposal in the introduced budget to implement a new licensing fee for providers of adult behavioral health and developmental services. The enrolled budget reduced the revenues assumed in the introduced budget by \$100,000 in the first year and \$200,000 in the second year as a result of the rejection of the proposed new fee. The conference committee amendment overstated the revenues assumed in the introduced budget which included \$50,000 in the first year and \$200,000 in the second year from the fee change.

Governor's Action (Technical): The Governor’s amendment increases the revenues assumed in the first year by \$50,000 to correct the conference committee amendment.

Notes:

- The front page will be adjusted to reflect the cumulative impact of amendments adopted by the General Assembly.

Amendment No. 3
Item 0 – Revenues
Technical – Reflect Effective Date of Budget on Sales Tax Nexus Changes

General Assembly Action: Adopted language included in the introduced budget under § 3-5.15 of the Code of Virginia, which modified the Commonwealth’s policy regarding the sales tax nexus for sales made through the internet. HB 1500 as introduced reflected additional revenue of \$11.1 million in FY 2018 as a result of the change.

Governor's Action (Technical): The proposed amendment recognizes \$916,667 in additional sales tax revenue in FY 2017 to reflect the fact that the policy change will become effective when the budget is passed as opposed to becoming effective July 1st. The amendment assumes one month of increased sales tax revenue in FY 2017.

Notes:

- The front page will be adjusted to reflect the cumulative impact of amendments adopted by the General Assembly.

Amendment No. 4
Item 69 – Compensation Board
Savings from Closure of Peumansend Creek Regional Jail

General Assembly Action: The General Assembly took no savings actions related to the anticipated closure of Peumansend Creek Regional Jail. The General Assembly did adopt an amendment directing the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to prepare a report on potential options for continued utilization of the Peumansend Creek Regional Jail as a state, regional, or local correctional mental health facility.

Governor's Action: The proposed amendment would reduce the general fund appropriation to the Compensation Board by \$496,000 in FY 2017 and \$3.5 million in FY 2018. These amounts represent total state funding provided to the jail by the Compensation Board. Currently, this funding supports a total of 102 funded positions in the jail – 88 correctional deputies, two cooks, two administrative support positions, nine medical/treatment positions, and one data technician.

Notes:

- Removing the funding for these positions would prevent the Compensation Board from reallocating these positions to local and regional jails experiencing overcrowding.
- Presently, local and regional jails with populations 50% or more above their rated operating capacity are currently due 285 positions according to Compensation Board staffing standards for emergency overcrowding positions.
- Closure of local or regional jails is an uncommon occurrence. The most recent closure occurred when the City of Petersburg closed its jail as of April 1, 2015. In that case, the

Compensation Board reallocated a total of 62 positions from Petersburg to 15 other local and regional jails with demonstrated need according to the Compensation Board staffing model.

- However, a deviation from this policy could be warranted until such time as the study is completed, at which time the General Assembly may elect to fund the continued operation of Peumansend Creek Regional Jail as a local, regional, or state correctional mental health facility.

Amendment No. 5

Item 70 – Compensation Board

Funding for Mental Health Assessments in Jails

General Assembly Action: The General Assembly included language in the amended budget directing the Compensation Board to review its jail staffing standards to evaluate the costs and benefits of requiring all jails to complete an assessment using a qualified mental health professional within 72 hours of the completion of an initial mental health screening.

Governor's Action: The proposed amendment provides \$442,500 in FY 2018 for the Compensation Board to reimburse selected local and regional jails for providing mental health assessments within 72 hours of the completion of an initial mental health screening. The language in the amendment implies the funding for reimbursements is related to the Compensation Board's evaluation of its staffing standards.

Notes:

- The Executive Secretary of the Compensation Board indicates that the Board does not need additional funding to complete a review of its jail staffing standards as directed by the General Assembly in its adopted amendment to House Bill 1500.
- The Governor's proposed amendment lacks specificity as to how local or regional jails would be selected to receive this funding, how many jails should receive funding, how funding should be allocated, and how the funding shall be used.
- Staff discussions indicate this funding would be used as a pilot program to test the Compensation Board's staffing standards for mental health assessments after they have been developed, but before they are reported to the General Assembly on October 1, 2017. However, as many local and regional jails already complete mental health assessments within 72 hours of an evaluation or less, it is unclear what new information would be gained from a pilot program.

Amendment No. 6
Item 86 – Department of Elections
Restore State Funding for Election Activities

General Assembly Action: The General Assembly adopted amendments which reduced the amount of additional general fund support provided to the Department of Elections in the budget by \$655,000 in FY 2018. The introduced budget included a series of amendments which provided a total of \$4.2 million GF for additional support to the Department, which included: i.) \$2.3 million to backfill for the decrease in federal HAVA funds, ii.) \$105,000 for a call center related to the 2017 statewide elections, and iii.) \$50,000 for the cost of printing additional voter registration and absentee ballot applications. The conference report eliminated the funding for the call center and the printing of additional applications and reduced the funding to backfill the HAVA funds by \$500,000.

Governor's Action: The proposed amendment would restore the \$655,000 in additional funding that was eliminated in the conference report. The amendment would return the funding for the Department of Elections to the level included in the introduced budget, with \$4.2 million in additional funding in FY 2018.

Notes:

- The original House budget accepted the Department of Elections budget as proposed in the introduced budget.
- The \$655,000 GF reduction was a compromise position as the Senate budget included a \$4.0 million reduction for the Department of Elections.

Amendment No. 7
Item 120 – Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy
Provide Funding for Solar Energy Development

General Assembly Action: The 2016 General Assembly eliminated \$1.0 million GF in FY 2017 and in FY 2018 which had been included in the introduced budget for solar energy development. In the 2017 Session, the General Assembly eliminated \$1.1 million GF for FY 2018 included in the introduced budget for solar energy development.

In 2016 the proposed funding was intended to assist private sector companies in installing solar energy devices for state owned facilities. In 2017 the proposed funding was intended to enable the development of programs for subsidizing solar energy projects.

Governor's Action: The Governor's amendment restores the \$1.1 million GF for FY 2018 that was included in the introduced budget for the purpose of developing programs to subsidize solar energy projects.

Amendment No. 8
Item 125 – Virginia Economic Development Partnership
Remove Language Withholding Funds Until Certain Plans Are Submitted to JLARC
Special Subcommittee for Economic Development

General Assembly Action: The General Assembly adopted language requiring the Comptroller – until notified by the Chairmen of HAC and SFC of compliance – to withhold \$1.5 million GF in FY 2018 until VEDP submits its strategic, marketing, and operational plans, in addition to plans for creating a new Incentives Division and Internal Auditor position, to the JLARC Special Subcommittee on Economic Development by December 1, 2017.

Governor's Action: The Governor's amendment eliminates the Chairmen's notification step and authorizes release of the withheld funds upon simple submission of the plans to the JLARC Special Subcommittee on Economic Development. The due date remains unchanged.

Notes:

- The administration claims that the process established in the budget is unconstitutional. DLAS staff indicate the language and process established in the approved budget are constitutional.

Amendment No. 9
Item 138 – Direct Aid to Public Education
Summer Cyber Camps

General Assembly Action: Eliminated \$480,000 GF in new FY 2018 funding included in House Bill 1500 as introduced.

Governor's Action: The proposed amendment restores the \$480,000 GF in FY 2018.

Notes:

- The House budget eliminated the proposed new funding.
- The Senate budget cut 50% of the \$480,000.

Amendment No. 10
Item 144 – SCHEV Financial Aid
Restore Cybersecurity Scholarship

General Assembly Action: The General Assembly eliminated proposed funding for cyber security scholarships. The program originally implemented by the Governor duplicates an existing federal program. The General Assembly originally eliminated this new program in the 2016 Session. Partial funding was restored as part of the 2016 Reconvened Session with criteria to be determined. The criteria created a program that duplicates the federal cyber corps program.

Governor's Action: The proposed amendment requests \$500,000 in FY 2018 to restore funding.

Notes:

- This program mimics the federal cybercorps program at James Madison University, Norfolk State University and Virginia Tech.
- The federal program requires the student to be within two-years of graduation in a coherent, formal, academic program that is focused on cyber security and be able to obtain a security clearance.
- The federal program provides tuition, fees, books, travel, health insurance and a \$20,000 stipend.

**Amendment No. 11
Item 213 – VCCS
Cybersecurity Program Director**

General Assembly Action: The General Assembly eliminated the funding authorized in the 2016 Reconvened Session for a new program at the VCCS. The General Assembly provided \$6.0 million GF in budget relief for the VCCS as part of its 2017 budget actions.

Governor's Action: The proposed amendment requests \$432,000 GF to restore funding for a cybersecurity program director at the VCCS Central Office and to develop curriculum for all VCCS campuses.

Notes:

- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and National Security Agency (NSA) have previously designated Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) as a National Center of Academic Excellence in cybersecurity.
- NVCC already assists with efforts to advocate for the community college cybersecurity program. In addition, NVCC has mapped curriculum to the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE), developed a national repository and taxonomy of cybersecurity programs mapped to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) NICE Framework and led several cybersecurity education webinars for community college faculty across the nation.
- In addition, Tidewater, Danville and Lord Fairfax Community Colleges were designated as National Center of Academic Excellence all prior to this position being created.
- About \$6 million GF was provided to the VCCS as part of the 2017 budget actions. If this is a high priority item the VCCS can utilize a portion their new funds for this purpose.

Amendment No. 12
Item 229 – Virginia Tech Extension
Amend Virginia Tech Extension Fund Split Language

General Assembly Action: The General Assembly expressed that its intent was to restore the long-standing 95 percent fund split policy with regard to Virginia Tech Extension. Upon implementation of the new accounting system, an incorrect fund split was entered into the system. By stating its intent, the General Assembly is correcting this error and providing that future funding allocations reflect the correct fund split.

Governor's Action: The proposed amendment proposes to delay the General Assembly's corrective action until fiscal year 2019.

Amendment No. 13
Item 247 – Eastern Virginia Medical School
Restore Budget Reductions

General Assembly Action: The General Assembly adopted the Governor's proposed five percent reduction in fiscal 2018 in the introduced budget.

Governor's Action: The Governor's amendment proposes \$187,116 GF in the second year to reduce his proposed budget reductions by about one percent.

Amendment No. 14
Item 294 – Department of Health
Language - Authorizes Transfer of Nutrition Programs

General Assembly Action: Eliminated the language and funding that transferred the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) which included five individual food programs (child day care centers, family or group day care homes, afterschool care program, emergency shelters and adult day care centers) from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to the Department of Education (DOE). VDH would continue to administer the programs and manage the \$57.7 million in federal funds and retain 20 positions.

Governor's Action: The proposed amendment would transfer two of the six food programs from VDH to DOE, the Summer Food Service Program and the Afterschool Care program in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. The transfer would be based on a memorandum of understanding between VDH and DOE that specifies the positions and funds to be transferred for the two programs.

Notes:

- Most states administer the Summer Food Service Program and the Afterschool Care food programs through their Education agencies, since these programs are offered through local school systems.
- The transfer of these two programs should result in some administrative efficiencies for the local school nutrition programs that provide these programs to school children.

Amendment No. 15
Item 295 – Virginia Department of Health
Support Local Health Department Rent and Renovations

General Assembly Action: No action. This is a new request that was not part of the introduced budget.

Governor's Action: The proposed amendment requests \$303,236 GF and \$167,772 NGF in FY 2018 to support the rent and renovation costs for the Chesterfield and Accomack local health departments.

Notes:

- The Department of Health submitted a budget request to fund expected rent increases at 17 local health departments in FY 2018, which was not funded in the Governor's introduced budget.
- The Department of Health splits the cost of local health department leases through the cooperative health department budget with the state share averaging 55 percent. However, decisions on locating local health department services are made by each locality.
- Most local health departments have leases that are 30 years old with 60-day termination clauses. As localities upgrade space or relocate local health departments to consolidate local human services, lease costs are renegotiated to cover an amount closer to the market rate by the Department of General Services, Division of Real Estate Services.
- Chesterfield County recently completed expansion of an administrative building that is shared by the County's Social Services and Health departments. The Health Department will gain an additional 10,000 square feet for its operations, an increase in area of almost one-third. Although lease negotiations for the new space began last year, they were not completed until recently, resulting in an increase in lease payments for the Health Department that had been unchanged since the late 1980s. The Governor's amendment provides an additional \$197,700 GF for the state's share of its lease payments in FY 2018.
- Accomack County is currently renovating and constructing additional space for its local health department. When complete in late 2017, the building will contain approximately 13,980 square feet, an increase in area of almost one-third. The Governor's amendment provides an additional \$105,536 GF for the state's share of its lease payments in FY 2018.

Amendment No. 16
Item 306 – Department of Medical Assistance Services
Clarify the Authority of DMAS Informal Appeals Agents

General Assembly Action: Included language authorizing the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) to amend its regulations to clarify that the informal appeals agent shall have the ability to close an informal appeal based on a settlement between the parties up to \$250,000 without the involvement of the Office of the Attorney General. For settlements of \$250,000 or greater, the settlement would proceed with involvement of the Office of the Attorney General in accordance with §2.2-514 of the Code of Virginia.

Governor's Action: The proposed amendment would remove language that eliminates the role of the Office of the Attorney General in approving settlements of informal appeals up to \$250,000.

Notes:

- The DMAS and the Virginia Bar Association agreed on the language adopted by the General Assembly to streamline the informal appeals process.

Amendment No. 17
Item 306 – Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)
Restore Authority to Implement Federal Health Care Reforms

General Assembly Action: Eliminated language in the introduced budget which provided authority to the Governor to expand Medicaid pursuant to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) on or after October 1, 2017.

Governor's Action: The proposed amendment restores language authorizing the Governor to expand Medicaid on or after October 1, 2017 pursuant to the ACA or any changes which increase the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for newly eligible individuals.

Notes:

- The General Assembly has repeatedly rejected Medicaid expansion pursuant to the ACA since 2013, and most recently during the 2017 Session.
- Despite the recent failed action of the U.S. House of Representatives to replace the ACA, nothing has changed with regard to Medicaid expansion. If anything, the recent discussions of capping Medicaid expenditures and reducing reimbursement for the states that expanded Medicaid underscores that need for Virginia to be cautious.

Amendment No. 18
Item 306 – Department of Medical Assistance Services
Strike Supplemental Payment Language

General Assembly Action: Included language authorizing the Department of Medical Services (DMAS) to make supplemental payments to certain private hospitals to reimburse them for their uncompensated costs for Medicaid services they have provided since December 2011. The language authorizes DMAS to enter into a transfer agreement with agencies within the Secretariat of Health and Human Resources (HHR) that are authorized to transfer funds to be used to pay the state share of Medicaid supplemental payments for these hospitals. It was anticipated that the participating hospitals would expand their provision of charity care in their communities through a collaborative non-profit health organization to provide for safety net and other human services that had been previously funded through HHR agencies. Language requires that 10 percent of any HHR agency transfers be retained by the general fund at the end of the fiscal year and that the hospitals report annually to the Department of Planning and Budget on charitable services provided.

Governor's Action: The proposed amendment eliminates language requiring the Department of Medical Assistance Services to make supplemental payments to certain private hospitals from funds transferred to DMAS by HHR agencies. The Governor's explanation notes that there cannot be any assurance that the hospitals will work with impacted HHR programs in order to preserve funding for safety net services without violating federal rules. If the federal government determines that any arrangements exist between enhanced payments and services being provided by the hospitals on behalf of the state, the associated Medicaid payments would be deemed improper, leading to disallowances and creating a financial liability for the Commonwealth.

Further, the Governor's explanation states that it is inappropriate to create an expectation that the Commonwealth will be able to provide these supplemental payments to participating hospitals. The enrolled budget does not provide any specific funding for these payments. Instead, it relies on the transfer of funds currently appropriated for ongoing services.

Notes:

- The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) approved a Virginia Medicaid State Plan Amendment for a supplemental payment program for qualifying private hospitals.
 - The approved State Plan Amendment states that no supplemental payment can be dependent on any agreement or arrangement for providers or related entities to donate money or service to a governmental entity.
- Several states operate supplemental payment programs in this manner, including Texas, Louisiana, Nevada and Arizona. However, recently legislative staff was made aware of CMS disallowances for these supplemental payment programs operated in Louisiana and Texas.
- In September 2016, Texas received a notice from CMS disallowing \$26.8 million in federal supplemental payments. CMS determined that transfers to the Medicaid program to fund supplemental payments to certain private hospitals were principally derived from governmental funds that were augmented by donations indirectly funded by the same private hospitals. CMS indicated that this arrangement violated federal Medicaid law and regulations.

Amendment No. 19
Item 436 – PPTA Language Regarding Project Labor Agreements
Eliminates Language Adopted by General Assembly

General Assembly Action: Adopted language included in both the House and Senate budgets that extends to Public-Private Transportation Act projects pre-existing provisions disallowing mandatory project labor agreements on state-run transportation projects. The Conference Committee agreed to amend the language at the Administration’s request to ensure the provisions did not apply to multi-state projects Virginia might undertake with Maryland.

Governor's Action: The proposed amendment eliminates the entire provision adopted by the General Assembly, eliminating the linkage to the provisions of §2.2-4321.2 of the Code of Virginia, which stipulates that you can no longer require or prohibit bidders to adhere to project labor agreements.

Amendment No. 20
Item 442 – Department of Motor Vehicles
Administrative Actions Related to Toll Violations
Eliminates Language Adopted by General Assembly

General Assembly Action: Issue not considered in House Bill 1500.

Governor's Action: The amendment adds language establishing stricter parameters for when the Department of Motor Vehicles can refuse to issue or renew a vehicle registration or license plate to an individual based on existing toll violations. The language is intended to help discourage toll facility operators from charging exorbitant fees on toll violators and builds upon the reforms instituted by the General Assembly in 2016 with the tolling reforms contained in HB 1069 (Jones).

Amendment No. 21
Item 475 – Central Appropriations
Capture State Health Insurance Savings

General Assembly Action: The General Assembly made no adjustment to the funding for the state employee health program. The 2016 Appropriation Act included a net increase of \$45.6 million GF in FY 2017 and \$91.7 million GF in FY 2018 to fund the employer’s share of the increase in health insurance premiums for the State Employee Health Insurance Program. The funding was based on an estimated 9.6 percent rate increase in FY 2017 and an 8.7 percent increase in FY 2018. There was no change in the funding for the health insurance program proposed in the 2017 introduced budget nor during the 2017 session.

Governor's Action: The proposed amendment captures savings of \$263,683 GF in FY 2017 and \$557,646 GF in FY 2018 based on an updated projection of enrollment in the state employee health plan for FY 2017 and FY 2018, as well as a proposal to adjust the premiums for FY 2018 for the smaller health plans (COVA HealthAware, COVA HDHP, and the Kaiser plan) based on an updated actuarial analysis.

Notes:

- The savings results from the updated estimate of the number of enrollees that will participate in the health program.
- The updated rates results in higher employer rates for those in the COVA HealthAware, and lower rates for those in the COVA HDHP and Kaiser, and results in a slight increase in total cost, which is more than offset by the decrease in projected enrollment.

Amendment No. 22
Item 475.10 – Central Appropriations
Reduce Jamestown-Yorktown Commemoration 2019

General Assembly Action: As part of the 2016 Session, the General Assembly provided \$3.9 million in FY 2017 and \$7.3 million in FY 2018 to support planning initiatives to commemorate the 400th anniversary of four landmark events in Virginia and the nation's history. The funds were intended to develop education services, events, marketing campaigns, statewide and national engagement, and partnerships and sponsorship programs. Given the fiscal situation, the General Assembly imposed about a 10 percent reduction to this funding in line with reductions at other state agencies.

Governor's Action: The Governor proposes to reduce funding by about 80% in FY 2018 in order to increase the unappropriated balance.

Notes:

- The savings from this item essentially cover the proposed new spending items.
- Reduction of these funds would essentially eliminate most SOL-based programs including civics education for grades 8-12 contemplated by the Jamestown-Yorktown Commemoration Board.
- In addition, contractual obligations, renewals and partnerships total \$4.2 million in FY 2018. These partnerships are critical to secure private funding support.
- The proposed reductions would:
 - Reduce ability to leverage investment through corporate sponsorships;
 - Reduce outreach programs;
 - Reduce tourism promotion; and
 - Limit reach of education programs and other events to the local area.

Amendment No. 23
Item 476 – Department of Housing and Community Development
Remove Funding Support for Economic Development in Southwest Virginia

General Assembly Action: The conference report provided \$500,000 NGF in FY 2018 from the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority to the Lenowisco and Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commissions for coordinated economic development activities in their respective districts. The language also required matching funds from the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission.

Governor's Action: The Governor's amendment eliminates the language and funding for this initiative.

Amendment No. 24
Item C-44 – Central Capital Outlay
Increase Maintenance Reserve for VCU Scott House

General Assembly Action: No action.

Governor's Action: The proposed amendment would provide \$3.5 million in additional maintenance reserve to repair the Scott House. Language also provides for the university to match the state funding dollar-for-dollar.

Amendment No. 25
Item C-48.10 – Central Capital Outlay
Supplement Virginia War Memorial Project

General Assembly Action: No action.

Governor's Action: The proposed amendment would provide \$1.5 million in Virginia Public Building Authority bonds to supplement funding for the Virginia War Memorial project to cover an unanticipated cost overrun.

Amendment No. 26
Item C-48.10 – Central Capital Outlay
Technical - VCBA Bond Language

General Assembly Action: No action.

Governor's Action (Technical): The proposed amendment makes a technical language allowing for issuance of either VCBA or VPBA bonds for the projects contained in the item.

Amendment No. 27
Item 4-5.01 – Transactions with Individuals
Virginia Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Program

General Assembly Action: No action. This is a new request that was not part of the introduced budget.

Governor's Action: The proposed amendment adds language clarifying conditions of payments made under the Virginia Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Program. Language also directs the State Corporation Commission to develop a report to recommend improvements to the actuarial soundness of financing the program.

Language requires the program to require each admitted claimant's parent or legal guardian to purchase private health insurance to cover medically necessary and reasonable expenses that were or are incurred as a result of the birth-related neurological injury, provided the program reimburses for premiums attributable to this coverage.

In addition, language requires the program or its designee, to apply Medicaid reimbursement rates to reimburse or pay for goods and services in the event they are not covered through the primary payer's agreement. If there is no comparable Medicaid reimbursement rate for the goods or services, the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission is required to determine the reimbursement or payment amount based on prevailing community charges.

Notes:

- The Virginia Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Program pays for medically necessary expenses not otherwise covered by insurance, contract or government programs related to certain birth injuries.
 - Currently, there are 156 active beneficiaries in the program and 5-10 are added each year
 - 96 have private insurance
 - 53 are covered by Medicaid
 - 7 have an unknown insurance status

- Historically, the program has paid those costs not otherwise covered by insurance, contract or government programs, including Medicaid. However, federal law requires the Medicaid program to be the payer of last resort. Consequently, the program must pay for costs currently paid by Medicaid, if those costs are related to the birth injury.
 - The program is not designed to administer the larger number of claims and their costs that will result from this change, therefore, the program plans to hire a Third Party Administrator (TPA) to handle the larger number of claims to which the program will be subject.
 - Budget language will require beneficiaries to obtain private insurance with premiums paid by the program and allow the TPA to apply the Medicaid reimbursement rate schedule to uninsured or partially covered expenses. This will remove part of the administrative burden from the program.
 - Beneficiaries will continue to have the ability to have individual disputed claims adjudicated by the Workers' Compensation Commission.