

Natural Resources

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	\$109.8	\$265.6	\$109.8	\$265.6
Proposed Increases	27.6	11.3	4.6	10.6
Proposed Decreases	<u>(2.0)</u>	<u>(1.7)</u>	<u>(1.8)</u>	<u>(1.7)</u>
\$ Net Change	25.6	9.5	2.7	8.9
HB/SB 30, as Introduced	\$135.4	\$275.0	\$112.6	\$274.5
% Change	23.3%	3.6%	2.5%	3.4%
FTEs	1,022.50	1,159.5	1,022.50	1,159.5
# Change	0.00	4.00	0.00	4.00

- **Secretary of Natural Resources**

- *Reporting on Settlements.* Retains language, included in Chapter 836 of the 2017 Acts of Assembly, requiring the Secretary of Natural Resources to report annually on all settlement agreements to which the Secretary is a signatory and provide copies of any finalized settlements to the Chairman of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance committees within 15 days of finalization. The introduced budget contains multiple actions relating to the recent DuPont settlement and Surry-Skiffes Creek mitigation agreements.

- **Department of Conservation and Recreation**

- *Provide Water Quality Improvement Fund Deposit.* Includes \$22.5 million GF in FY 2019, representing the statutory deposit to the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) based on the FY 2017 revenue surplus and unexpended balances. Out of this deposit, a series of designations are made, including: (1) the required deposit of 15 percent, or about \$2.0 million, to the WQIF reserve fund, (2) the transfer of \$19.8 million to the Virginia Natural Resource Commitment Fund of which \$18.4 million is agricultural best management practices, (3) the provision of \$2.4 million to soil and water conservation districts for technical assistance, and (4)

the use of \$750,000 to provide \$250,000 to develop a tracking and reporting module for the Ag BMPs database and \$500,000 to be used as match for the federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

- ***Increase Nongeneral Fund Appropriations.*** Increases the department’s nongeneral fund appropriation by \$3.9 million each year to align anticipated revenues and spending levels.
- ***Appropriate Nongeneral Fund Settlement Monies to Support Middle Peninsula State Park.*** Proposes a nongeneral fund appropriation of \$509,955 the first year and \$317,124 the second year as well as 3.00 FTE positions from mitigation settlement amounts relating to the Skiffes Creek settlement. These amounts will cover operating costs at Middle Peninsula State Park for the biennium. Beginning in FY 2021, these costs will have to be covered by the General Fund. Accompanying language exempts the acquisition of property resulting from mitigation settlements from the prohibition on the acceptance of property that result in additional operating expenses. A companion amendment in Capital Outlay authorizes the acceptance of this property which is being donated as a State Park as part of the Skiffes Creek settlement.
- ***Wi-Fi Connectivity in State Parks.*** Includes \$526,888 GF the first year and \$9,460 the second year to install Wi-Fi connections at eight state parks and expand Wi-Fi coverage at 14 additional parks.
- ***Increase Virginia Land Conservation Fund.*** Proposes an additional appropriation of \$312,500 to the Virginia Land Conservation Fund to reflect revenue received from the Skiffe’s Creek mitigation settlement.
- ***Virginia Outdoors Foundation.*** Provides \$250,000 GF each year to support the establishment of a new urban open-space preservation grant program.
- ***Dam Rehabilitation Plan.*** Proposes language that extends the date for the submission of the Plan for the Rehabilitation of Soil and Water Conservation District Dams by one year to November 1, 2018.
- ***Capital Outlay Authorizations.*** In addition to the language authorizing the acceptance of land for the Middle Peninsula State Park as part of the Skiffe’s Creek Settlement, there are four other Capital Outlay amendments relating to DCR. The first provides a nongeneral fund appropriation of \$3.6 million in the first year to acquire three additional Natural Areas Preserves (two being provided from funds generated by the DuPont Settlement and one from the Skiffe’s Creek Settlement). The second provides \$1.5 million NGF in the first year to acquire land from the U.S. Navy to expand the York River State Park. The third proposal would authorize the issuance of \$4.0 million in bonds to make infrastructure repairs

including roadway improvements and bath houses at various State Parks. Finally, HB/SB 30 proposes the authorization of \$7.5 million in bonds for cabin improvements at Douthat, First Landing and Fairy Stone State Parks.

- **Department of Environmental Quality**

- *Water Quality Monitoring.* Provides \$14,000 GF each year to support increased water monitoring activities.
- *Clean Power Plan Language.* Eliminates language that had been included in Chapter 836 which prohibited the use of air protection program funds to develop a Clean Power Plan as the federal requirement has been repealed.
- *Alexandria CSO.* An amendment in Capital Outlay authorizes \$20.0 million in bonds to address improvements related to Alexandria’s Comprehensive Sewer Overflow project.

- **Department of Game and Inland Fisheries**

- *Appropriate Settlement Revenues.* Increases the agency’s nongeneral fund appropriation by \$768,400 each year resulting from the dedication of a portion of the Skiffe’s Creek mitigation settlement funds for improvements to Hogg’s Island.
- *Capital Outlay.* Amendments in Capital Outlay propose nongeneral fund appropriations totaling \$9.4 million the first year and \$10.4 million the second year for the department. These amounts include \$1.9 million each year for maintenance reserve projects; \$1.0 million for wildlife management area improvements; \$5.0 million each year for the acquisition of additional land; \$500,000 each year for dam improvements; and \$1.0 million the first year and \$2.0 million the second year to improve boating access.
- *Game Protection Fund Transfers.* Includes the appropriation of \$33.7 million nongeneral fund over the biennium, representing transfers from the general fund of sales tax revenues generated from the sale of watercraft and from hunting, fishing and sporting activities.

- **Department of Historic Resources**

- *Easement Coordinator.* Provides \$97,799 and one nongeneral fund position each year to support an additional easement coordinator to assist with negotiating conservation easements. Current staffing levels only support the process of approximately 50 percent of the 30 easements proposed each year. The cost of the position would be supported by a proposed administrative fee authorized in accompanying language. The level of the fee is not set out.

- *Project Review Archeologist.* Proposes \$93,004 GF each year for an additional archaeologist to support environmental and historic reviews of projects impacting historic resources.
- *Federal Grant Funding.* Provides a nongeneral fund appropriation of \$500,000 each year to support federal grant awards for which the department serves as a pass-through agent.
- *Appropriate Settlement Funds.* Proposes to provide \$200,000 NGF the first year and \$100,000 NGF the second year to reflect anticipated revenue from the Surry-Skiffe’s Creek mitigation agreement.
- *Battlefields Preservation Fund.* Continues to provide \$1.0 million GF each year for land acquisition and preservation of battlefields across the Commonwealth. This is one of three amendments in the Natural Resources and Agriculture & Forestry Secretariat that provide dedicated general funds each year for land conservation activities.
- *Historic African American Graves.* Provides an additional \$960 from the general fund each year to support African American graves at the Daughters of Zion Cemetery in Charlottesville. The payment rate is set at \$5.00 per grave per year.

- **Marine Resources Commission**

- *Tangier Island Seawall Project.* Provides \$245,687 GF the first year and \$233,637 GF the second year for the state share of the federally-funded Tangier Island Seawall Project. A companion amendment to reduce FY18 funding amounts is included in the proposed amendments to HB/SB 29.
- *Derelict Barge Removal.* Proposes \$190,000 GF the second year to fund the costs of removing a derelict barge in Belmont Bay at the mouth of the Occoquan River between Fairfax and Prince William Counties.
- *IT Upgrade for New Headquarters.* Recommends \$52,000 GF each year to cover increased costs associated with upgrading internet bandwidth at the Commission’s new headquarters which will be located at Fort Monroe.