

Natural Resources

Adopted Adjustments				
(\$ in millions)				
	FY 2017 Adopted		FY 2018 Adopted	
	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>
2016-18 Base Budget, Ch. 665	\$123.4	\$285.7	\$123.4	\$285.7
Increases	77.2	3.3	14.6	3.1
Decreases	(19.5)	(26.6)	(22.9)	(26.3)
\$ Net Change	57.8	(23.3)	(8.3)	(23.3)
Chapter 780 (HB 30, as Adopted)	\$181.1	\$262.5	\$115.1	\$262.5
% Change	46.8%	(8.2%)	(6.7%)	(8.2%)
FTEs	1,020.50	1,162.5	1,020.50	1,162.5
# Change	(2.00)	2.00	(2.00)	2.00

- **Department of Conservation and Recreation**

- *Provide Water Quality Improvement Fund Deposit.* Includes \$61.7 million GF in FY 2017, representing the statutory deposit to the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) based on the FY 2015 revenue surplus and unexpended balances. Out of this deposit, several designations are made, including: (1) the required deposit of 15 percent, or about \$8.2 million, to the WQIF reserve fund; (2) the transfer of \$51.8 million to the Virginia Natural Resource Commitment Fund, of which \$26.0 million is dedicated for agricultural best management practices, and \$19.6 million for implementation of previously approved livestock stream exclusion practices; (3) the provision of \$6.2 million to soil and water conservation districts for technical assistance; and (4) the use of \$1.6 million to provide \$500,000 to develop a tracking and reporting module for the Ag BMPs database; \$100,000 for nutrient management on golf courses; \$250,000 for the Department of Forestry to provide water quality grants; and \$800,000 to be used as match for the federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).
- *Financial Assistance for Soil and Water Conservation Districts.* From the Water Quality Improvement Fund deposit, includes \$6.8 million GF each year for Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Of this amount, \$6.2 million each year is for core

operations and administrative expenses; \$312,000 GF annually representing \$3,000 each for maintenance of the 104 soil and water conservation district-owned dams; and \$170,000 GF annually to perform small repairs on known or suspected dam deficiencies.

- ***Recognize Additional Recordation Fee Revenue.*** Increases the recordation fee proceeds dedicated to the implementation of Agricultural Best Management Practices (Ag BMP) by \$10.0 million NGF each year. Pursuant to language found in § 3-6.01 of the budget, a fee of \$20 is imposed on every deed recorded in the Commonwealth, of which \$10 is dedicated to the Virginia Natural Resources Commitment Fund (VNRCF) for implementation of Ag BMP. This appropriation includes the reversal of a action in Chapter 665 of the 2015 Acts of Assembly which retained \$1.0 million each year from this fee to help balance the general fund budget.

These funds are used to supplement SWCD technical assistance with an additional \$1.2 million, and provides \$8.8 million of Ag BMP cost share assistance from recordation fee revenues. The total funding provided for technical assistance to farmers and other land users by soil and water conservation districts is \$7.4 million (all funds) the first year. The total for the Ag BMP cost share is \$33.4 million (all funds).

- ***Virginia Land Conservation Fund.*** Includes \$8.0 million GF each year for the Virginia Land Conservation Fund. This one of three amendments in the Natural Resources and Agriculture & Forestry Secretariat that dedicate \$10.0 million GF each year for land conservation activities. Also included is \$2.0 million of nongeneral fund resources each year from the fee assessed on the transfer of land preservation tax credits.
- ***Natural Heritage Program.*** Includes \$500,000 GF each year to support active preserve management within DCR's 61 natural area preserves.
- ***Dam Safety Programs.*** A series of three actions are included that are related to dam repair and rehabilitation:
 - ***Soil and Water Conservation Districts.*** Provides an additional \$350,000 GF each year for the repair of small dams maintained by Soil and Water Conservation Districts, bringing the total annual appropriation for SWCD maintained dams to \$500,000.
 - ***Dam Safety Fund.*** Provides \$464,294 GF each year for the Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund. Also includes funding to hire an additional position to manage the program, bringing total funding for dam safety to \$546,080 GF each year.

- ***Specific High Hazard Dams.*** Provides \$3.6 million GF the first year for three high hazard public water supply dams to match available federal and local funds available for these public water supply protection projects. Specifically, funding is directed for the Hearthstone Lake Dam in Augusta County and the Lake Pelham and Mountain Run dams in Culpeper County.
- ***Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail Interpretive Center.*** Includes language authorizing DCR to accept transfer of the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail Interpretive Center to the division of state parks upon completion of its construction. This would include 153 acres of land and \$450,000 for maintenance. The facility would be a satellite of the Natural Tunnel State Park. Language stipulates that it is the intent of the General Assembly to provide positions and ongoing funding for the operation of the Center.
- ***Seven Bends State Recreation Area.*** Provides \$291,635 GF the second year to support limited opening of the Seven Bends state recreation area in Shenandoah County. Authorization was provided by the 2015 Session for construction to allow public access. The funding will support personnel and equipment needed to operate the facility.
- ***Natural Bridge State Park.*** Includes \$120,000 GF each year to continue the transition of Natural Bridge to a state park. The funds will support 2 positions, a chief ranger and a park ranger. Additional language is included that provides a statement of legislative intent for the Department to enter into an agreement with the existing nonprofit owner of Natural Bridge for operation as a Virginia State Park but does not allow for the transfer of ownership at this time.
- ***Pocahontas State Park.*** One-time funding of \$635,000 GF the first year is provided to leverage additional private funding for completion of the Swift Creek Mountain Bike Trail, a trail redevelopment project designed to provide access for off-road bicycling for disabled riders.
- ***State Park P3 Assessment.*** Language is included that directs the Board of Conservation and Recreation to evaluate whether cost reductions or other operational efficiencies could be generated by increasing the use of public-private partnerships for the development and operation of state parks including additional amenities and increased operation revenue.
- ***Prohibition of Acceptance of Additional Private Land for State Parks.*** Includes language prohibiting the Governor from accepting any private land for operation as a state park without an appropriation from the General Assembly. A separate Part 4 action removes language included in the Act that established a process for the acceptance of donations of private land.

- *Shoreline Erosion Advisory Services.* Includes \$200,000 GF each year to provide technical assistance to support Shoreline Erosion Advisory Services.
- *Chesapeake Bay Field Studies.* Provides \$80,000 GF each year for a grant to provide field studies on the Chesapeake Bay.
- **Department of Environmental Quality**
 - *Fund DGS Lab Testing Fee Increases.* Provides \$442,000 GF each year to support price increases for testing and analytical services provided to DEQ by DGS’s Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS). DEQ uses DCLS for water and air quality monitoring as well as groundwater programs.
 - *Prohibition on Clean Power Plan Implementation.* Language is included that conditions the appropriation of all air program funding on the prohibition of expenditure for development of a state implementation plan for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency “Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units” unless the stay issued by the United State Supreme Court is released.
 - *Local Stormwater Service Charge Reporting.* A series of amendments to both the Department of Environmental Quality and the Auditor Public Accounts clarifies that each locality that levies a stormwater service charge report annually on revenues generated by the charges, the programs funded by these fees, and the anticipated reduction of nutrient and sediment loads to the Auditor with the DEQ providing technical assistance upon request.
 - *Stormwater Local Assistance Funding.* Separate legislation, Chapters 759 and 769 of the 2016 Acts of Assembly (HB 1344/ SB 731), authorizes \$20.0 million in bond proceeds to be administered by the Department of Environmental Quality through the Stormwater Local Assistance program, designed to provide grants to local governments for the most cost-effective projects to reduce nutrient and sediment loads due to stormwater runoff.
- **Department of Game and Inland Fisheries**
 - *Increase Transfer to Game Protection Fund.* Increases the transfer from the general fund to the Game Protection fund by \$5.0 million each year based on revenue collected from the sales of hunting equipment, ancillary hunting equipment, fishing equipment, ancillary fishing equipment, wildlife-watching equipment, and ancillary wildlife-watching equipment in Virginia, as estimated by the most recent U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and

Wildlife-Associated Recreation, pursuant to § 58.1-638 E., *Code of Virginia*. During the 2014-16 biennium, this portion of revenue was retained by the general fund.

- *Increase Watercraft Sales Tax Revenues*. Increases the transfer from the general fund to the Game Protection Fund by \$2.7 million each year based on increased watercraft sales activity. During the 2014-16 biennium, this portion of revenue was retained by the general fund.

- **Department of Historic Resources**

- *Virginia Battlefields Preservation Fund*. 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 dedicates \$10.0 million GF each year for land conservation activities.

- **Marine Resources Commission**

- *Fisheries Management Division*. Provides \$318,000 GF the first year and \$262,000 GF the second year to fund 3 vacant data and quota management positions.
- *Tangier Island Seawall Project*. Provides \$233,000 GF the first year and \$2,933 GF the second year for the state share of the federally funded Tangier Island Seawall Project.
- *Oyster Replenishment*. Increases from \$100,000 NGF to \$200,000 NGF each year the amounts appropriated for oyster replenishment. The additional funding is will be utilized for research activities.
- *Sturgeon Observer Program*. Provides authorization for 2.0 additional NGF FTE positions to support the sturgeon observer program. Sufficient appropriations exist, but they did not have MEL available to fill the positions.

- **Virginia Museum of Natural History**

- *Museum Security Funding*. Provides an increase of \$57,000 GF the first year to support replacement and improvement of the museum's security equipment, including new closed circuit cameras, security key pads, and a new "weather bug" monitor.