

Natural Resources

Proposed Adjustments as Introduced (\$ in millions)				
	FY 2015 Proposed		FY 2016 Proposed	
	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>
2014-16 Base Budget, Ch. 806	\$97.5	\$271.3	\$97.5	\$271.3
Proposed increases	40.4	17.5	9.2	17.5
Proposed decreases	<u>(3.1)</u>	<u>(12.8)</u>	<u>(3.1)</u>	<u>(12.8)</u>
\$ Net Change	37.3	4.8	6.1	4.8
HB/SB 30, as Introduced	\$134.9	\$276.1	\$103.7	\$276.1
% Change	38.3%	1.8%	6.3%	1.8%
FTEs	1,022.50	1,157.50	1,022.50	1,157.50
# Change	3.00	(3.00)	3.00	(3.00)

- **Department of Conservation and Recreation**

- *Provide Water Quality Improvement Fund Deposit.* Includes \$23.9 million GF in FY 2015, representing 75 percent of the \$31.5 million statutory deposit to the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF). Out of this deposit, a series of designations are made, including: (1) the required deposit of 15 percent, or about \$3.0 million, to the WQIF reserve fund, (2) the transfer of \$18.2 million to the Virginia Natural Resource Commitment Fund for the implementation agricultural best management practices, (3) the provision of \$1.6 million to soil and water conservation districts for technical assistance, (4) and the use of \$1.2 million to provide \$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).
- *Recognize Additional Recordation Tax Revenue.* Increases the recordation tax proceeds dedicated to the implementation of agricultural best management practices by \$900,000 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. \$10 is dedicated to the Virginia Natural Resources Commitment Fund (VNRCF) for implementation of agricultural best management practices. Including these

additional NGF proceeds, the total amount of recordation fees dedicated to the VNRCF is \$10.0 million.

The total funding provided for technical assistance to farmers and other land users by soil and water conservation districts is \$3.7 million (all funds) the first year. This amount includes \$1.6 million from \$31.5 million deposit to the WQIF and \$1.2 million from those recordation fees deposited into the Virginia Natural Resource Commitment Fund.

- ***Financial Assistance for Soil and Water Conservation Districts.*** Includes \$254,000 GF each year for Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This funding consists of an additional \$108,000 GF annually representing a \$1,000 increase in the amount provided for maintenance of the 104 soil and water conservation district-owned dams (from the current \$2,000 per dam to \$3,000 per dam) and \$150,000 GF annually to perform small repairs on known or suspected dam deficiencies.
- ***Engineering Support for Soil and Water Conservation Districts.*** Provides \$225,000 GF and \$150,000 NGF each year to hire four engineers to support SWCDs and to offset a decrease in engineering services previously provided by the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- ***Virginia Land Conservation Fund.*** Proposes an increase of \$1.0 million GF each year for the VLCF, bringing the total appropriation to \$2.0 million each year.
- ***Resource Management Program.*** Provides \$89,100 GF each year for one additional position to assist farmers in developing and implementing Resource Management Plans. Farmers who fully implement these plans shall be deemed in compliance with the total maximum daily load allocations required to meet state water quality requirements for nutrient and sediment reductions.
- ***Chesapeake Bay Field Studies.*** Provides \$80,000 GF each year for a grant to provide field studies on the Chesapeake Bay. This program was previously funded in the Department of Environmental Quality.
- ***Transfer Stormwater Management Program.*** Transfers \$2.1 million GF and \$9.2 million NGF each year and 83.0 FTE positions to the Department of Environmental Quality to implement legislation adopted by the 2013 General Assembly that shifted responsibility for these programs to DEQ.

- **Department of Environmental Quality**
 - *Water Quality Improvement Fund.* Provides \$7.6 million GF in the first year, representing 25 percent of the statutory deposit to the Water Quality Improvement Fund, of which \$6.6 million is provided for stormwater and nonpoint source water quality projects, including municipal separate stormwater sewer systems and grants to local governments. The remaining \$988,538 represents the required deposit to the WQIF reserve fund.
 - *Transfer Stormwater Management Program.* Provides \$2.1 million GF and \$9.2 million NGF each year and 83.0 FTE positions to the Department of Environmental Quality to implement legislation adopted by the 2013 General Assembly that shifted responsibility for these programs from DCR.
 - *Waste Tire Program.* Includes a technical amendment providing \$2.3 million NGF each year in funding for cleaning up waste tire piles. The nongeneral fund revenue is from the existing waste tire fee charged on new tire purchases.
 - *Coastal Aquifer System.* Proposes \$401,036 GF the first year and \$462,494 GF the second year to address the expansion of the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area to include the coastal plain north of the Mattaponi River. Additional funding will be used to hire 5 new permit writers and add saltwater and land subsidence components to the Coastal Plain Groundwater Model.
 - *Stormwater Management Bonds.* Included in Capital Outlay is \$20.0 million in VPBA funding for grants to local governments for projects to address stormwater management projects.
- **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 \$2.4 million each year based on revenue collected from the sales of hunting equipment, auxiliary hunting equipment, fishing equipment, auxiliary fishing equipment, wildlife-watching equipment, and auxiliary 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*.
 - *Increase Watercraft Sales Tax Revenues.* Increases the transfer from the general fund to the Game Protection Fund by \$2.2 million each year based on increased watercraft sales activity.

- *Increase Federal Funds Appropriation.* Provides an increase of \$3.1 million NGF each year based on projected federal revenues due to the Commonwealth from federal fund formulas.
- *Increase Appropriation for Personnel Costs.* Increases the agency’s appropriation by \$1.3 million NGF each year to implement salary adjustments authorized by the 2013 General Assembly.
- **Department of Historic Resources**
 - *Increase Federal Funds Appropriation.* Provides \$500,000 GF each year to appropriate project increases in federal pass-through grant funds.
 - *Historical Highway Marker Program.* Provides \$113,734 GF each year to replace an expiring federal grant that supported the highway marker program.
- **Marine Resources Commission**
 - *Marine Law Enforcement Positions.* Provides \$255,200 GF each year to fill four vacant law enforcement officer positions that will primarily focus on addressing increased poaching activities in state-owned oyster sanctuaries.
 - *Tangier Island Seawall Project.* Provides \$23,000 GF the first year and \$6,000 GF the second year for the state share of the federally funded Tangier Island Seawall Project.
 - *Increase Funding for Commercial Licensing.* Provides an increase of \$30,000 NGF each year to support the consolidation of all commercial licensing into one cost center.
 - *Reduce Federal Funding for Oyster Replenishment.* Reduces the agency’s appropriation by \$1.1 million NGF each year to reflect the elimination of federal NOAA grants for oyster replenishment.
 - *Reduce Coast Lands Program.* Proposes a reduction of \$300,000 NGF each year to reflect reduced revenues to the Marine Habitat and Waterways Improvement Fund.
- **Virginia Museum of Natural History**
 - *Museum Operation Funding.* Provides an increase of \$144,483 GF the first year and \$150,801 GF the second year to support museum operation as donations have declined. Also includes a reduction of \$111,905 NGF each year, representing the loss of private donations.