

Veterans and Defense Affairs

Governor's Proposed Amendments				
(\$ in millions)				
	FY 2015 Proposed		FY 2016 Proposed	
	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>
2014-16 Current Budget (Ch. 3, 2014 Special Session I)	\$11.8	\$51.2	\$11.7	\$47.9
Proposed Increases	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.1
Proposed Decreases	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.5)
\$ Net Change	<u>0.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>2.5</u>	<u>(0.4)</u>
HB 1400/SB 800, as Introduced	\$11.8	\$51.2	\$14.2	\$47.5
% Change	0.0%	0.0%	21.1%	(0.8%)
Central Account Reversions	(\$0.1)	\$0.0	(\$0.1)	\$0.0
% Change	(0.8%)	0.0%	(0.8%)	0.0%
FTEs	119.00	566.00	128.00	566.00
# Change	0.00	0.00	9.00	0.00

- **Department of Veterans Services**

- *Appropriation for Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program.* Creates a new service area (or subprogram) and establishes an appropriation for the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) program and the Virginia Transition Assistance Program (VTAP).
- *V3 and VTAP Funding.* Adds \$474,000 GF and \$100,000 NGF the second year to support the hiring of veterans by companies certified by the V3 program, and to support the transition of veterans to the civilian workforce in the VTAP program through civilian education and training. The nongeneral fund appropriation provides authority to spend expected donations to the programs.
- *Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program.* Provides \$67,090 GF and \$42,000 NGF and 1 position the second year to conduct eligibility and certification for the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP). Also included is nongeneral fund support for the Veterans Education,

Training, and Employment section to continue the post-secondary education and training program for veterans and family members under the federal G.I. Bill program and the state VMSDEP program.

- ***Benefit Field Offices.*** Adds \$1.8 million GF and 8 positions the second year to enhance the services provided through the agency’s field offices. This amendment includes:
 - Funds to fill 5 vacant positions by hiring three claims agents (at the McGuire and Salem VA Medical Centers and the Norfolk field office), and two administrators (at the Fairfax and Roanoke field offices).
 - Funds for a career development program for claims agents and administrators;
 - Funds for increased operating costs and information technology upgrades at field offices;
 - Funds to convert 13 administrative positions to claims agents;
 - Funds to open and operate two new field offices (in Christiansburg and Fredericksburg);
 - Funds for two additional claims agents (at the new Christiansburg and Fredericksburg field offices), and 4 administrative positions (at the Hampton VA Medical Center and the Henrico, Christiansburg and Fredericksburg field offices);
 - Funds for 2 new positions (a claims agent and an administrator) for a proposed new partnership with a local government.
- ***Veterans Cemeteries.*** Includes language authorizing a treasury loan for the construction of additional cremated burial sites and associated landscaping and infrastructure at the Suffolk veterans’ cemetery, subject to the confirmation of federal grant funding.
- ***Reduction of Homelessness.*** Adds \$180,000 GF the second year for three local Housing Resource Specialist positions for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program regions in Northern Virginia, Southwest Virginia, and Greater Hampton Roads.

Central Account Reversions

- ***FY 2014 Pledged Balances.*** Recognizes \$0.4 million GF in June 30, 2014 pledged balances which were carried forward into FY 2015 for the purpose of offsetting the required agency reductions.

- *VITA Network Connectivity.* Saves \$140,862 GF the first year and \$116,272 GF the second year by removing funding added in Chapter 3 to equip each of the field offices with an Enterprise Remote Connectivity Services box.
- *Surplus Nongeneral Fund Revenues.* Captures \$218,961 the first year which represents 50 percent of the surplus revenue received by the two Virginia Veterans Care Centers from payments from insurance policies and patients.

Capital Outlay

- *Veterans Care Centers.* Adds language specifying that for the purpose of certifying the availability of state matching funds to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the amounts authorized in Chapter 1 of the 2014 Acts of Assembly, Special Session 1, include state support estimated at \$32.6 million for the Hampton Roads Veterans Care Center and \$33.9 million for the Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center.