

Agriculture and Forestry

Proposed Adjustments as Introduced				
(\$ in millions)				
	FY 2021 Proposed		FY 2022 Proposed	
	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>
2018-20 Base Budget, Ch. 854	\$57.0	\$54.5	\$57.0	\$54.5
Proposed Increases	5.5	2.5	4.6	2.5
Proposed Decreases	<u>(0.1)</u>	<u>(0.0)</u>	<u>(0.1)</u>	<u>(0.0)</u>
\$ Net Change	5.3	2.5	4.5	2.5
HB/SB 30, as Introduced	\$62.3	\$57.1	\$61.5	\$57.1
% Change	9.3%	4.6%	7.9%	4.6%
FTEs	506.59	337.41	506.59	337.41
# Change	8.00	0.00	8.00	0.00

- **Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

- *Food Safety Program.* Recommends a \$267,000 GF increase the first year and \$257,000 GF increase the second year to support three additional food safety inspector positions within the food safety inspection program.
- *Animal Care Coordinator.* Proposes a \$95,000 GF increase each year to support 1.0 FTE to coordinate inspection of animal shelters across the Commonwealth.
- *Industrial Hemp Program.* Proposes a \$726,000 GF increase the first year and a \$176,000 GF increase the second year to support two additional positions and technology costs associated with testing of industrial hemp extracts and the registration of hemp growers, dealers, and processors.
- *Support Cloud Service Utilization.* Includes a \$245,000 GF increase the first year and a \$98,000 GF increase the second year from the general fund to support contract and vendor costs required to comply with Executive Order 19 to migrate information technology applications to cloud based services by December 2021.
- *Watershed Implementation Plan.* Recommends a \$240,000 GF the first year and \$185,000 GF the second year to support 2.00 FTE to enhance audits and verification

of contractor-applications of fertilizer on nonagricultural property. This item is related to meeting the Commonwealth's water pollution reduction targets under Phase III of the Watershed Improvement Plan.

- ***Virginia Wine Promotion Fund.*** Includes an increase of \$64,232 GF each year from wine liter taxes derived from Virginia wine and cider products that are dedicated by statute for promotion of Virginia's viticulture industry, bringing the total appropriation to the Fund to approximately \$2.3 million per year. The increase represents higher sales volumes of Virginia wines and ciders.
- ***Predator Control Programs.*** Proposes to eliminate general fund support for the coyote and black vulture control programs that are supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, resulting in an annual savings of \$90,000 GF.
- ***Eastern Shore Farmers Market.*** Modifies existing language in Part 3-1.01 to authorize VDACS, in cooperation with the Department of General Services, to sell the New Market Office Building and Produce Warehouse which is located in Melfa, Virginia and to allow the Department of General Services to grant any easement necessary to facilitate the sale.
- ***Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund.*** Includes \$1.0 million from the general fund each year to level-fund the AFID program in order to provide grants or loans to grow Virginia agribusinesses. Also proposes to increase the allocation for administrative support costs of the program to \$233,692. Total funding for the program is maintained at the level funded in Chapter 854 of the 2019 Acts of Assembly.
- ***Farmland Preservation.*** Proposes \$250,000 GF each year to the Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund to be used to provide matching grants to local purchase of development rights programs. The funding level mirrors the amounts authorized in the current fiscal year.

- **Department of Forestry**

- ***Hardwood Habitat Program.*** Proposes \$1.0 million GF over the biennium for the establishment of a new hardwood forest habitat program, modeled on the Reforestation of Timberlands program, to incentivize landowners to invest in the regeneration of hardwood trees. The existing program is limited to pine forests. General fund amounts for both programs would match industry participant contributions.
- ***Apprenticeship Program.*** Recommends a total of \$104,000 GF over the biennium to establish an apprenticeship program within the Department. The proposed

funding is intended to support three apprentice positions including one mechanic apprentice, one journeyman apprentice, and one forestry technician apprentice.

- ***Watershed Implementation Plan.*** Recommends \$0.4 million GF each year and 4.00 FTE to manage conservation easements, tree planting and forest conservation strategies included in Phase III of the Watershed Implementation Plan to help Virginia meet its Chesapeake Bay cleanup requirements by 2025.
- ***Establish New State Forest.*** Proposes to authorize the creation of a new state forest in Charlotte County with \$5.1 million NGF from the State Forest Mitigation Acquisition Fund.

- **Virginia Racing Commission**

- ***Pari-Mutuel Racing Funds.*** Includes language to require the Commission to maintain an end of year fund balance of \$500,000 and transfer any excess revenues from pari-mutuel wagering to the general fund in Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022.