

# 2012 SESSION

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**Proposed FY 2012-2014 Budget  
January 19, 2012**

# HB 30 WQIF Language

- Proposes language providing the Secretary of Natural Resources with equal authority to the General Assembly when determining how the legislatively-created WQIF reserve fund will be used
  - The WQIF Reserve Fund was created by the 2004 Session of the General Assembly to limit the “feast or famine” approach to funding Virginia’s water quality programs
- Proposes language overriding the required deposit to the WQIF reserve fund
  - Funds would be used to support urban stormwater technical assistance
  - Under existing policies, fund uses would be determined by the General Assembly

# HB 30: Distribution of WQIF

## Nonpoint Source Pollution Control

- Deposits \$5.0 million GF in FY 2013 into the WQIF for implementation of agricultural best management practices
  - Proposed language directs this entire sum be re-deposited into the Virginia Natural Resources Commitment Fund
  - Continues the existing appropriation of \$9.1 million NGF each year from the \$10 fee on deed recordations
- Reallocates spending authority between agency appropriations for WQIF and Virginia Natural Resources Commitment Fund
  - Increases the NGF appropriation for the Virginia Natural Resources Fund by \$18.0 million NGF in FY 2013 and \$11.6 million NGF in FY 2014, including prior year balances
  - Reduces the NGF appropriation for WQIF expenditures by \$19.4 million each year

## Point Source Pollution Control

- Deposits \$45.3 million GF into the WQIF for reducing nutrients discharged by wastewater treatment plants
  - Signed agreements are in place for 57 projects currently
  - Language also provides \$3.5 million GF from deposit for use by the DOC to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant serving the Augusta Correctional Center

# HB 30: Conservation and Recreation

- Reduces over \$2.0 million GF each year in the operating support provided to local soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs)
  - SWCDs are the “boots on the ground” responsible for installation and inspection of most best management practices – they are also more trusted by producers
  - Cutting SWCDs jeopardizes achievement of the Watershed Implementation Plan’s goals
- Proposes a reduction of \$450,000 GF each year, offset by an equal NGF increase from increasing various State Park fees
- Provides \$1.9 million GF in FY 2013 for the costs of relocating and consolidating the agency’s offices
  - The total cost of the move is estimated at \$3.0 million, but the Department of General Services will provide the rest of the funding to complete the relocation.
- Includes a reduction of \$650,000 GF each year and 13 positions due to vacancies

# HB 30: Environmental Quality

- Proposes \$625,000 GF in FY 2013 to support the federal Title V Clean Air program
  - Also includes language encouraging stakeholders to reach agreement on a permanent fee structure to fully support the program in the future. If the stakeholders do not reach agreement, consideration will be given to ceding the program to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
  - Title V Clean Air program has always been supported by fees previously
- Transfers funding for the Waste Tire program by \$2.3 million NGF each year, and transfers those amounts to VDOT for highway maintenance
  - The source of the NGF revenue is from a \$1.00 waste tire fee on the purchase of all new tires, which was established to clean up waste tire piles across the state
- Includes the transfer of \$191,250 NGF the first year and \$127,500 NGF the second year from the Litter Control and Recycling Fund to the general fund
- Saves \$80,000 GF each year by eliminating funding provided to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for educational field studies

# HB 30: Other Natural Resource Actions

## Department of Historic Preservation

- Provides \$1.0 million GF each year for Civil War Battlefield protection
  - Pursuant to Code requirements, these funds must be matched 2 for 1 by other sources of funding
- Proposes \$66,500 GF each year to pay for OAG legal services

## Virginia Marine Resources Commission

- Proposes \$500,000 GF each year for oyster replenishment
  - The intent is to offset the loss of \$1.0 million in federal support for oyster restoration efforts
- Saves \$197,638 GF and \$22,362 NGF each year from eliminating the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament
  - Tournament is operated using saltwater fishing license revenue – this revenue is used to offset GF reductions in law enforcement operations
- Proposes within Central Appropriations to save \$148,750 GF each year by eliminating participation in the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC)
  - PRFC is an interstate compact that regulates commercial and recreational fishing on the Potomac River
  - Elimination of PRFC membership may required Virginia fishermen to purchase Maryland fishing licenses

## Museum of Natural History

- Provides \$65,000 GF each year to restore prior year budget cuts to allow Senior Curators to return to full-time status