

Natural Resources

Adopted Amendments (\$ in millions)				
	FY 2015 Adopted <u>GF</u> <u>NGF</u>		FY 2016 Adopted <u>GF</u> <u>NGF</u>	
2014-16 Current Budget (Chapter 3, 2014 Special Session I)	\$133.3	\$269.9	\$102.1	\$265.2
Increases	1.6	2.0	21.8	20.6
Decreases	<u>(0.0)</u>	<u>(10.0)</u>	<u>(0.5)</u>	<u>(0.0)</u>
\$ Net Change	1.6	(8.0)	21.3	20.6
Chapter 665 (HB 1400, as Adopted)	\$134.9	\$261.9	\$123.4	\$285.8
% Change	1.2%	(3.0%)	20.8%	7.8%
Central Account Reversions	(\$1.2)	\$0.0	(\$1.9)	\$0.0
% Change	(0.9%)	0.0%	(1.8%)	0.0%
FTEs	1,022.50	1,157.50	1,022.50	1,160.50
# Change	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00

- **Department of Conservation and Recreation**

- **Water Quality Improvement Funding.** Two separate actions are taken to ensure that Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) levels for FY 2016 are equal to those in FY 2015 to support ongoing conservation, soil and water conservation district, and agricultural best management programs. First, a deposit \$10.7 million GF in the second year is provided to the WQIF. In addition, the one-time use of \$8.2 million from the WQIF Reserve Fund to is authorized for deposit to the Fund, bringing the total FY 2016 to \$18.9 million. As there were no surplus revenues in FY 2014, there is no statutorily required deposit to the WQIF. This reserve fund, established by the General Assembly in 2004, is used to ensure funding remains available for Virginia's water quality efforts when revenue surpluses are unavailable.
- **Virginia Land Conservation Fund Deposit.** Includes a second year deposit of \$3.0 million GF to the Virginia Land Conservation Fund (VLCF), bringing the second

year total to \$6.0 million for grants to be used by private land trusts, local governments and state agencies to protect and acquire special lands in the following categories: farmlands and forestry, historic areas, natural areas, and open spaces and parks.

- ***Soil and Water Conservation Districts.*** Two actions are included to improve the operational efficiency of the Soil and Water Conservation District program. First, transfer \$10.0 million NGF in Soil and Water Conservation district cost share assistance funding from the first year to the second year based on year-to-date expenditures from the fund. Second, language is provided in the Office of the Attorney General that requires legal services provided to the Districts include ancillary costs of travel.
- ***High-Hazard Dams.*** Three separate actions are included related to high-hazard dams. First, language authorizes the deposit of \$150,000 in each fiscal year for the repair of small dams, of known or suspected deficiencies, into the Soil and Water Conservation District Dam Maintenance, Repair, and Rehabilitation Fund. This action eliminates the need for the annual request for carry-forward for projects not fully completed within a fiscal year and provides certainty to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts that they can proceed with repairs without concern that funding will not be provided to meet contractual obligations. Second, language authorizes the use of Dam Safety Funds for the development of a rehabilitation plan for high-hazard dams maintained by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Finally, language is included to authorize the use of up to \$60,000 in Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance funding for updates to the Commonwealth flood protection plan.
- ***DCR Operational Support Funding.*** A series of amendments are included to provide the Department additional operating funding of \$870,886 GF the first year and \$1.7 million GF the second year for support of DCR programs. Of these amounts, \$500,000 is provided for the Natural Area Preserve Program, \$150,000 is provided for the Shoreline Erosion Advisory Service program, and \$60,000 is provided for the transition of Natural Bridge to a Virginia State Park. The balance of the funding is intended to remedy deficiencies identified by the Auditor of Public Accounts in 2014.
- ***State Park Furnishings.*** Two separate actions provide a total of \$1.1 million in GF and GF capital for the replacement of furnishings at existing State Park overnight facilities.
- ***State Park Conservation Fund.*** Includes technical changes of \$2.0 million NGF in each year for the State Park Conservation Resources Fund.

- ***Provide Line of Credit.*** Part 3 of the budget establishes a \$4.0 million line of credit to cover cash flow constraints resulting from periodic delays in federal grant reimbursements and seasonal fluctuations in state park revenues.
- ***State Park Capital Improvement Projects.*** Part 2 of the budget includes \$3.1 million GF for various projects related to the state park system. The projects include: Occoneechee State Park Sprayground (\$1.5 million); land acquisition for an adjacent parcel for the Natural Tunnel State Park (\$177,000); and the purchasing and installation of one yurt per state park (\$1.4 million). Yurts are a circular domed tent-like structure made of vinyl fabric, stretched over a lattice framework, and constructed on a deck or solid foundation. Also included in Part 2 is \$2.2 million the second year for an NGF capital project to develop Seven Bends State Park as a limited-use park.

Central Account Reductions

- ***Increase State Park Fees.*** Recognizes a reduction in general fund appropriation to state park operations which is offset by a series of increases in state park access and parking fees of various amounts in order to generate \$870,144 NGF in the second year.
- ***Transfer NGF Balances.*** Transfers \$1.4 million in balances the first year from three DCR programs including Dam Safety, State Park Acquisition, and the Virginia Land Conservation Fund.
- ***Other Central Account Savings Strategies.*** Other reduction strategies included in the central accounts total \$262,742 GF in the first year and \$1.4 million GF in the second year.

• **Department of Environmental Quality**

- ***Stormwater Local Assistance Fund.*** Authorizes a direct appropriation of \$5.0 million GF the second year to the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) to supplement funding previously authorized from bond proceeds. The SLAF is used to provide matching grants to local governments for stormwater best management practices that reduce water quality pollutant loads.
- ***Establish a Class A Biosolids Fee.*** Includes language authorizing DEQ to establish a fee for producers of Class A Biosolids of \$3.75 per dry ton beginning October 1, 2015. Currently, the department charges \$7.50 per dry ton of land-applied Class B Biosolids.
- ***Petroleum Remediation Advisory Group.*** Establishes a stakeholder advisory group to advise the Department on agency guidance governing the cleanup of petroleum releases from residential and commercial storage tanks. The working

group is required to assess if guidance is being provided uniformly across regional offices, if guidance is consistent with groundwater protection regulations, and the appropriate level of deductible for homeowners seeking funding from the Underground Storage Tank Fund.

- ***Review of EPA Clean Power Plan.*** Provides \$200,000 GF in the second year to cover the consultant costs required to implement the provisions of SJ 273 of the 2015 Session which directs the Department to assess any potential double-counting of air quality benefits in the US Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Power Plan.

Central Account Reductions

- ***Transfer NGF Balances.*** Includes the transfer of \$3.6 million NGF in balances the first year and \$0.3 million NGF the second year from seven DEQ programs as outlined in the table below.

DEQ NGF Balance Transfers			
<u>Fund</u>	<u>FY 2015</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>Total</u>
Waste Tire Fund	\$ 997,630		\$ 997,630
Hazardous Waste Management Fund	800,000		800,000
Emission Inspection Program	1,600,000	\$ 300,000	1,900,000
Fish Killing Investigation Fund	51,639		51,639
Surplus Supplies and Equipment Sales	70,395		70,395
Environmental Covenants Fund	<u>36,364</u>	<u> </u>	<u>\$36,364</u>
Total	\$ 3,556,028	\$ 300,000	\$ 3,856,028

- **Department of Game and Inland Fisheries**

- ***Department Headquarters Project.*** Includes a series of amendments in Part 2 of the budget (Item C-25.10) related to the relocation of the Department’s headquarters initiated in 2008. First, language is included to rescind Virginia Public Building Authority bond funding for the project. Additionally, language is included in Part II that declares as surplus property that was transferred to the DGIF from the Department of Transportation in support of the original project. The department received administrative authorization to purchase an existing building that can be funded using Game Protection Fund balances.

- *Land Acquisition.* Includes language in Part 2 of the budget (Item C-23) authorizing an additional \$1.3 million NGF for the Land Acquisition Capital Program.
- *Transfer NGF Balances.* Includes the transfer of \$4.3 million NGF balances to the general fund in the second year including \$2.6 million in hunting and fishing equipment sales taxes and \$1.7 million in watercraft sales taxes.
- **Department of Historic Resources**
 - *Civil War Historic Site Preservation.* Includes a cumulative total of \$1.25 million GF the second year for Civil War Historic Site Preservation. The amendment includes two actions that reverse a proposed reduction of \$250,000 GF to the program and provides an additional \$1.0 million GF for the program.
 - *Appomattox Sesquicentennial.* Provides \$100,000 GF the second year to Appomattox County in support of the activities surrounding the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House National Historic Park.
 - *Central Account Reductions.* Agency reduction strategies included in Item 471.10 total \$169,199 GF the first year and \$237,600 GF the second year.
- **Marine Resources Commission**
 - *Moratorium on Saltwater License Fee Increases.* Includes two actions related to an increase in Saltwater Fishing licenses that went into effect in January 2015. The first action is language stating that the Commission shall not increase the fees imposed on licenses beyond the rate in effect on October 1, 2014. The second action restores a proposed reduction of \$550,000 in the second year that was to be offset with proceeds from the proposed fee increase.
 - *Federal Fisheries Survey.* Includes \$366,000 NGF and 3.0 FTEs the second year from federal funds in support of the transfer of responsibility to the VMRC for the fisheries survey program.
 - *Central Account Reductions.* Includes savings totaling \$732,354 the first year and \$75,000 the second year primarily from two actions related to Saltwater Recreational Fishing Licenses. In the first year, License Fund program balances are used to supplant general fund reductions.
- **Virginia Museum of Natural History**
 - *Satellite Campus Assessment.* Includes language directing the Museum to conduct a feasibility assessment on the potential for opening a satellite location in

Waynesboro, including all operational costs and potential revenue sources to support this expansion.

- ***Central Account Reductions.*** Includes savings strategies totaling \$145,000 GF the first year and \$203,000 GF the second year primarily from reductions in personnel costs and the elimination of 2.0 FTEs.