

## Veterans and Defense Affairs

<b>Proposed Adjustments as Introduced</b>				
(\$ in millions)				
	<b>FY 2021 Proposed</b>		<b>FY 2022 Proposed</b>	
	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>
2018-20 Base Budget, Ch. 854	\$34.1	\$138.4	\$34.1	\$138.4
Proposed Increases	8.9	18.3	4.1	30.3
Proposed Decreases	<u>(0.0)</u>	<u>(0.4)</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>(0.4)</u>
\$ Net Change	8.9	18.0	4.1	30.0
<b>HB/SB 30, as Introduced</b>	<b>\$43.0</b>	<b>\$156.4</b>	<b>\$38.2</b>	<b>\$168.4</b>
% Change	25.95%	13.0%	12.0%	21.7%
FTEs	295.47	1,199.03	295.47	1,419.03
# Change	3.00	25.00	3.00	245.00

- **Department of Veterans Services**

- *National Museum of the United States Army.* The introduced budget proposes \$5.0 million GF the first year in one-time matching funds be provided to the County of Fairfax for the construction of the Virginia Veteran’s Parade Field at the National Museum of the United States Army located in Fairfax County.
- *Veterans Services Representative.* Includes \$383,000 GF in FY 2021 and \$510,000 GF in FY 2022 and 3 positions to hire new Veterans Services Representative positions. These staff assist veterans with filling out benefits forms, and filing claims for medical care, disability, pension, and death benefits with the U.S. Veterans Administration.
- *Veterans Peer Specialists.* Proposes \$230,000 GF in FY 2021 and \$306,000 GF in FY 2022 to hire three veterans peer specialists. These positions support veterans with mental health conditions through their rehabilitation and recovery processes.
- *Salary Differential for Northern Virginia Staff.* Includes \$222,000 GF each year for targeted salary increases for seven appeals attorneys and 16 veterans services representatives working in the Department’s Northern Virginia offices.

- *Facility Maintenance Costs.* Includes \$93,000 GF each year for increased maintenance costs at the Virginia War Memorial.
  - *Customer Service IT Expenses.* Includes \$35,000 GF each year for customer service software upgrades in the Department.
  - *Operations of New Veterans Care Centers.* Proposed \$12.0 million NGF and 220.0 positions in FY 2022 for the staffing and operations of two new veterans care centers, located in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads. The increase in appropriation anticipates the collection of revenue from Medicare and Medicaid through the centers' provision of medical care.
- **Department of Military Affairs**
    - *Increase Funding for Tuition Assistance.* Proposes \$500,000 GF each year in additional funding for the State Tuition Assistance Program (STAP). STAP provides financial assistance for tuition and is available to all members of the Virginia National Guard. This amendment if adopted would increase the total amount available for STAP to \$3.5 million GF each year.
    - *State Active Duty Pay.* Includes language authorizing members of the Virginia National Guard and Virginia Defense Force to receive pay and allowances equal to their rank and years of service for state active duty missions, as determined by the Department.
    - *Increase NGF Appropriation for Programs Targeting At-Risk Youth.* Includes \$436,351 NGF each year for the Virginia Commonwealth ChalleNGe Program to reflect the program's cost reimbursement agreement with the federal government. The ChalleNGe program is a residential academic and training program for at-risk youth. The introduced budget also includes \$139,000 NGF each year from the Science and Technology Academies Reinforcing Basic Aviation and Space Exploration (STARBASE) program. STARBASE is a Department of Defense program which provides under-served and at-risk elementary students opportunities to benefit from STEM-related programs and activities.