

**Key Features of the Senate Finance Committee
Amendments to Senate Bills 29 and 30
February 17, 2008**

Public Education

- Provides an increase over the base of \$337 million in FY 2009 and \$537 million in FY 2010 for Direct Aid to Localities for Public Education.
- Provides funds for the state share of a 2.5 percent teacher salary increase effective December 1, 2009.
- Maintains about \$50 million over the biennium for Literary Fund school construction interest rate subsidy grants and loans to help those localities least able to pay.
 - All localities can continue to take advantage of market rates and low costs through the Virginia Public School Authority.
- Re-benchmarks the maximum preschool per pupil amount from \$5,700 in FY 2008 to \$6,000 in FY 2009 and \$6,790 in FY 2010 to catch up with today's costs, in order to encourage more localities to fully step up to the plate.
 - Also increases the number of slots for disadvantaged children for a total possible of 21,500 statewide in FY 2009 and 22,680 in FY 2010 to help localities that already fully participate to serve more children that can benefit most.

Higher Education

- Provides \$22.1 million (about 50 percent of the additional funding in the introduced budget) for base adequacy for the public institutions of higher education.
- Maintains \$18.2 million for the biennium in financial aid for in-state undergraduate students.
- Includes \$20.2 million over the biennium for the Virginia Research Initiative at individual institutions of higher education and \$9.8 million for research funding to be disbursed under the Higher Education Research Initiative.
- Provides debt service to support the funding for 59 higher education projects through the Virginia College Building Authority (VCBA) and authorizes funds for planning 11 additional projects with treasury loans.

Health and Human Resources

- Adds \$567.5 million GF for federal and state mandates, including Medicaid, FAMIS, CSA, foster care and adoptions.
- All discretionary spending is offset by budget reductions, including \$41 million GF by providing lower payment increases for hospitals and nursing homes, using additional revenues of \$25 million to the Virginia Health Care Fund, which offsets general fund spending, and other reductions in existing programs or proposed spending.
- Includes \$42.1 million GF to expand community-based mental health services, including outpatient services to adults and children, emergency psychiatric services, case managers, and services to divert individuals from jails.

- Provides \$13.9 million GF to strengthen foster care and adoption services, by increasing the rates paid for family-based foster care, placing more emphasis on the recruitment and retention of foster and adoptive families, and enhancing the training provided to social workers.
- Adds \$7.3 million GF to increase access to health care services through Virginia's free clinics and community health centers, as well as providing prenatal care to low-income women.
- Provides \$7.2 million GF for 150 additional mental retardation waivers over the biennium.
- Includes \$6.0 million GF to improve the quality of early childhood education in the Commonwealth through improved training, financial incentives to educators, and grants to communities developing programs.

Public Safety

- Provides \$2.5 million each year to fully fund state aid to localities with police departments (HB 599) in FY 2009. The second year amount in FY 2010 is level funded.
- Adds \$3.5 million and 26 new positions for prisoner reentry programs to reduce the level of recidivism.
- Provides \$2.2 GF million for ten additional state troopers, plus \$3.0 million NGF from toll revenues for 16 state troopers for the Dulles Access Road.
- Includes \$250,000 each year and four positions for the Wounded Warrior program, to assist returning veterans with post-traumatic stress disorders, head injuries, and other mental and physical disabilities in obtaining services.

- Adds \$100,000 each year for training for law enforcement officers in immigration law and policy.

Natural Resources

- Provides \$50 million for land conservation.
- Includes \$25 million to repair unsafe state and locally-owned dams.
- Approves \$20 million for agricultural best management practices.
- Includes a six-year plan for development of six new state parks.

Economic Development

- Provides \$42.9 million to stimulate economic growth in the Commonwealth while strengthening our competitiveness in advanced manufacturing, research and development.
- Saves \$35 million by instituting the Governor's recommended energy conservation initiatives.

Virginia's Court System

- Provides \$7.7 million for 16 new judges in the Circuit, General District and Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts.
- Adds 2.4 million for 32 additional deputy circuit and district court clerks and 16 courtroom security deputy sheriffs to support these new judges.

- Strengthens the Magistrate System by adding \$7.9 million and 45 new positions over the biennium for improved services, supervision and training, and increased use of technology.

General Government

- Includes \$1.5 million to continue funding for the Statewide Automated Victim Notification System.
- Provides for the use of \$420 million from the Rainy Day Fund.

Capital Outlay

- Provides \$72.0 million GF in FY 2010 in a central account for maintenance at state facilities.
- Provides \$1.5 billion (from all fund sources) for projects at institutions of higher education.

Employee Compensation

- Includes a total of \$113.7 million GF for employee salary increases in fiscal year 2010:
 - Includes \$56.1 million for an average 2.5 percent salary increase on November 25, 2010 for state classified employees and faculty, and December 1, 2010 for state-supported local employees. These funds are budgeted to the Central Appropriations.
 - **Local Teachers.** Proposes \$57.6 million for a 2.5 percent salary increase on December 1, 2009 for teachers and other SOQ-funded positions. These funds are budgeted through the Department of Education.

Non-State Agencies

- Provides no funding at this time for traditional state grants to non-state agencies, such as museums and historic sites.