Key Features of the Senate Finance Committee Amendments to Senate Bill 800 (February 3, 2013)

Public Education

- Provides a net increase of $19.7 million (GF and NGF) above the budget as introduced for K-12 education.

- Adds $18.2 million GF for the state's share of funding to include school support positions in the 2 percent teacher salary increase. Also reflects $3.0 million for a Strategic Compensation Grants Initiative.

- Adds $12.6 million GF to partially restore funding for the Northern Virginia Cost of Competing Adjustment for support positions.

- Includes $4.9 million GF for Blind and Visually Impaired staffing, $1.4 million GF for more reading specialists, and $0.6 million GF for a school-wide discipline initiative, as proposed in the introduced budget.

- Restores $1.0 million GF for scholarships to attract top students to the teaching profession; adds $1.0 million GF for targeted year-round schooling; and adds $350,000 GF to help address the wait list for school efficiency reviews.

- Directs JLARC to study two items: 1) options for restructuring lowest performing schools and districts and 2) possible refinements going forward to the incentive formula for encouraging local consolidation.

Higher Education

- Provides a net increase of $13.8 million above the budget as introduced for higher education, a total of about $41.0 million over the budget approved during the 2012 Session.

- Includes almost $13.9 million for base operations, enrollment growth, and operation and maintenance funding at Virginia's public institutions of higher education.

- Provides over $9.2 million for need-based financial aid for in-state undergraduate students.

- Includes about $8.5 million for an additional one percent faculty salary increase, for a total increase of three percent in FY 2014.

- Eliminates a reduction for turnover and vacancy savings of $5.7 million in the second year included under Central Accounts.

Other Education

- Restores $1.0 million GF for formula aid to local libraries.

Health and Human Resources

- Provides funding for Medicaid home- and community-based waiver services including:

    - $7.7 million GF for additional intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities waiver slots, contingent upon care coordination for these services;

    - $3.6 million GF to provide an adequate rate to transition individuals into the community from state training centers;

- $2.2 million GF to maintain access to quality care provided by private duty nurses delivery services to medically fragile individuals and adult day health services; and

- $2.0 million GF to restore eligibility for low-income elderly and disabled Virginians who need long-term care services.

- Provides additional resources for behavioral health services including:

  - $3.8 million for early intervention services for infants and toddlers;

  - $1.0 million for expanded children's mental health services; and

  - $750,000 for individuals waiting to be discharged from state mental health facilities.

- Restores funding for public health services including:

  - $1.0 million GF to continue operating three poison control centers;

  - $1.0 million GF to preserve dental services provided through local health departments; and

  - $727,628 GF for health homes for low-income Virginians provided through CHIP of Virginia.

- Adds $1.9 million to reduce waiting lists for employment and support services by one-third for individuals with physical disabilities or brain injuries.

Transportation

- Implements the transfer of $49 million in general sales and use tax revenues to the Highway Maintenance and Operating Fund, consistent with legislation reported by the Finance Committee.

- Prohibits the sale or lease of any Virginia seaport without the approval of the General Assembly.

    - Requires comprehensive study of any proposal by the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees.

- Authorizes the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue Virginia veteran's identification cards to members of the National Guard.

- Continues investments in commuter ferry and intercity passenger rail programs.

- Advances several ongoing transportation initiatives that have been impacted by recent changes to federal transportation authorization.

    - Directs funding to continue the Route 1 Transit Corridor.

    - Establishes a Commonwealth Scenic Byways Program.

Natural Resources

- Recommends $219.0 million in Virginia Public Building Authority (VPBA) bonds, including $101.0 million to honor the Commonwealth's commitment to upgrade locally-owned public wastewater treatment plants to address water quality standards, $78.0 million for the Richmond and Lynchburg Combined Sewer Overflow projects, $35.0 million for local stormwater management grants, and $5.0 million for upgrades

to the City of Hopewell to meet their unique wastewater challenges.

- Provides $16.9 million from the statutory deposit to the Water Quality Improvement Fund for nonpoint source strategies; $14.7 million will be dedicated for agricultural best management practices, while $2.3 million will be to enhance local stormwater program planning efforts.

- Includes $1.0 million for dam safety projects, an additional $0.4 million for farmland preservation, $0.5 million for Civil War battlefield protection and $0.6 million to open Powhatan State Park.

Economic Development

- Provides an additional $1.5 million to maximize available federal funding to continue to develop offshore wind energy.

- Includes $1.5 million for rapid rehousing and permanent support housing to level fund these programs in the second year.

- Recommends $0.5 million to capitalize the Building Revitalization Grant Fund created by legislation that passed the Senate.

Public Safety

- Provides $1.0 million for the School Resource Officers grant program in the Department of Criminal Justice Services, based on best practices using the intelligence-led policing model.

- Provides $14.3 million to open the River North Correctional Center in Grayson County in January 2014.

- Saves $2.8 million by enrolling inmates in the Department of Corrections (DOC) in the Medicaid program for off-site inpatient and outpatient medical care. Language is included to monitor the implementation of this initiative and the impact on providers, and to determine the costs of expanding this coverage to regional and local jail inmates.

- Saves $10.6 million GF through the new DOC contract with a new provider for on-site inmate medical care.

- Saves $7.1 million and 101.5 positions the second year by downsizing the juvenile correctional centers operated by the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

- Saves $1.0 million and eliminates 25 teaching positions to reflect the declining population of the DJJ facilities.

- Includes $150,000 to establish the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) program in the Department of Veterans Services, and an additional $300,000 to fund grants to businesses certified under the V3 program, pursuant to Senate Bill 831.

Virginia's Court System

- Authorizes the General Assembly to fill 26 vacant judgeships in the Circuit, General District, and Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts, effective July 1, 2013.

- Increases the Legal Aid Filing Fee from $10 to $14 to support legal aid offices under the auspices of the Virginia Legal Services Corporation.

- Reduces funding for regional capital defender offices under the Indigent Defense Commission (by $200,000) and for the Virginia Capital Representation Resource Center (by $117,500)

to reflect the reduction in the number of capital murder cases involving the death sentence in Virginia.

General Government

- Includes language authorizing Commonwealth's Attorneys to add the collection fee for private attorneys or collection agencies, on top of the amount of the overdue fines and fees that are owed the Commonwealth, rather than paying the collection fees out of the amounts collected for the fines or the fees, which is the current practice. This is expected to generate $6.1 million in additional revenues for the Literary Fund.

- Provides a Financial Flexibility Reserve Fund of $21.0 million in FY 2013 and $15.0 million in FY 2014.

Capital Outlay

- Provides $936.0 million from general fund-supported Virginia Public Building Authority (VPBA) and Virginia College Building Authority (VCBA) and matching higher education funding to advance 57 capital outlay projects to construction.

    - Includes $263.8 million in bonds proposed in the introduced budget, $120.2 million reprogrammed from prior authorizations, and $552 million in additional authorizations to move all these projects to construction.

    - Recommended projects include addressing essential needs in colleges and universities, and critical projects for the Department of Veterans Services, State Police, Department of Corrections, State Parks, and buildings at the seat of government.

- Recommends 26 additional projects that will move to detailed planning.

Employee Compensation

- Includes $21.4 million for an additional one percent salary adjustment across-the-board for all state employees, effective in July 2013.
    - Including the two percent across-the-board adjustment for the same date that was approved by the 2012 General Assembly, this will bring the total across-the-board adjustment to three percent, effective in July 2013.
- Includes $8.7 million for an additional one percent salary adjustment for all state-supported local employees, including constitutional officer and their employees, in July, 2013.
- Adds $2.1 million to increase the salaries for all Assistant Commonwealth's Attorneys in July 2013. This provides a $3,308 increase for each Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney.
- Adds $1.2 million for an additional one percent across-the-board increase for all State Police sworn employees with six or more years of service as of July 1, 2013, effective in July 2013.
- Adds $1.1 million for an additional targeted salary adjustment for deputy clerks of the district courts.
- Restores $1.0 million in FY 2014 for the Career Development Program for constitutional officers and reinstates the program so that new employees may participate in the program as older employees retire and leave the program, within the existing appropriation.