

# Agriculture and Forestry

<b>Adopted Amendments</b>				
(\$ in millions)				
	<b>FY 2017 Adopted</b>		<b>FY 2018 Adopted</b>	
	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>NGF</u>
<b>2016-18 Current Budget</b> (Ch. 780, 2016 Session)	<b>\$56.6</b>	<b>\$50.7</b>	<b>\$57.1</b>	<b>\$50.7</b>
Increases	0.2	0.0	0.8	2.6
Decreases	<u>(2.1)</u>	<u>(0.0)</u>	<u>(4.0)</u>	<u>(0.0)</u>
\$ Net Change	(1.9)	0.0	(3.2)	2.6
<b>Chapter 836 (HB 1500, as Adopted)</b>	<b>\$54.7</b>	<b>\$50.7</b>	<b>\$53.9</b>	<b>\$53.3</b>
% Change	(3.3%)	0.0%	(5.7%)	5.2%
FTEs	504.59	329.41	496.59	337.41
# Change	(2.00)	0.00	(10.00)	8.00

- **Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry**

- *Farm Winery Regulatory Review.* Directs the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry to convene a stakeholder workgroup to review local noise and traffic regulations and their impact on the long-term viability of the farm wine industry in Virginia. The Secretary is required to report any recommendations from the regulatory review no later than November 30, 2017.

- **Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

- *Implement Additional Federal Agriculture Programs.* Includes an additional \$1.0 million NGF and 6.0 FTE the second year for participation in federally funded Produce Safety and Commodity Supplemental Food programs.
- *Virginia Wine Promotion Fund.* Provides an increase of \$76,273 GF each year to the Virginia Wine Promotion Fund to more accurately reflect the revenues generated by the sale of Virginia wines. These revenues are deposited to the Fund pursuant to § 4.1-235 of the *Code of Virginia*.

- *Local Farmer’s Market Regulatory Review.* Directs VDACS to assess requirements governing vendors at farmer’s markets across the Commonwealth to ensure that local “perimeter rules” are not providing a preference for out-of-state vendors over Virginia-based vendors.
- *Restore Coyote and Black Vulture Control Funding.* Provides \$287,500 from the general fund over the biennium to restore state match for federal APHIS Wildlife Services grants to undertake coyote and black vulture control.
- *Restore GF Support for Non-Restaurant Food Inspection Program.* Provides \$400,000 from the general fund in the second year to eliminate a proposal by the Governor to increase the non-restaurant food inspection fee in order to reduce general support for the program.

### ***Budget Reductions***

- *Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund.* Reduces funding for the Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund by \$500,000 GF the first year and \$750,000 GF the second year, leaving \$500,000 the first year and \$250,000 the second year to support the program.
- *Agricultural Marketing Programs.* Decreases funding for domestic and international marketing programs for Virginia agricultural products by \$175,000 GF the first year and \$250,000 GF the second year, leaving \$1.1 million each year for agricultural marketing.
- *Farm Business Development Grant Fund.* Eliminates \$260,364 GF both years for a new program originally approved by the 2016 General Assembly and intended to provide micro-grants of \$5,000 to farmers and small agribusinesses to assist in business planning, market research and other business development activities. While funding for the grants is not provided, sufficient funding is retained to allow for the Department to continue refining grant guidelines and provide technical assistance in these business development activities with existing staffing.
- *Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund (AFID).* Includes a reduction of \$220,000 GF the first year and \$780,000 GF the second year to AFID, leaving \$1.0 million in base-grant funding available the second year. The 2016 General Assembly doubled annual funding for AFID from \$1.0 million to \$2.0 million each year. A separate action eliminates \$113,580 GF and 1.0 FTE authorized for management and promotion of the program in the second year. The 2016 General Assembly authorized an additional 2.0 FTE positions for this program.

- *Eliminate Beehive Grant Fund.* Discontinues funding for the Beehive Grant Fund to realize a general fund savings of \$125,000 the second year. An additional action in Part 3 transfers \$175,000 in FY 2016 program balances to the General Fund as part of the Governor’s October 2016 reduction plan. Language is included that directs VDACS to no longer accept applications for awards from the fund, as no funding is provided.
- *Eliminate Organics Specialist.* Directs the elimination of an unfilled position for an organics specialist that was approved by the 2016 General Assembly, but has not yet been filled. The action results in a reduction of \$136,472 GF the first year and \$123,472 GF the second year, as well as the elimination of 1.0 FTE.
- *Eliminate Specialty Crop Commercialization.* Eliminates funding for the Specialty Crop Commercialization program for a general fund savings of \$75,000 the second year.
- *Charitable Gaming.* Reduces funding for the regulation of charitable gaming by \$197,000 GF each year. Approximately \$1.1 million GF each year remains for the regulatory requirements.

- **Department of Forestry**

- *Appropriate Additional Federal Funds.* Appropriates an additional \$1.35 million NGF the second year to recognize additional nongeneral program funds.
- *Accounting System Replacement.* Provides one-time funding of \$113,360 GF the second year for the replacement of the Department of Forestry’s accounting system.
- *Restores Restoration of Timberlands Program Funding.* Provides \$300,000 from the general fund in the second year to fully restore a proposed cut to the Reforestation of Timberlands contained in the Governor’s proposed amendments.
- *Eliminates Proposed Silvicultural Inspection Fee.* Provides \$500,000 from the general fund the second year to eliminate a proposed silvicultural inspection fee contained in the Governor’s proposed amendments.

***Budget Reductions***

- *Eliminate Positions.* Includes reductions of \$330,730 GF the second year through the elimination of four positions, including a training officer, a forest program analyst, a computer programmer, and reclassifying a Senior Area Forester to an Area Forester position. The action results in four layoffs.

- ***Eliminate Vacant Telecommunications Specialist.*** Eliminates support for a vacant telecommunications specialist generating \$84,551 GF and reducing 1.0 FTE position. This position was authorized in Chapter 780 of the 2016 Acts of Assembly but was never filled. Identical savings are generated in the first year as part of the Governor’s October 2016 budget reduction plan.
- ***Turnover and Vacancy Savings.*** Includes a reduction of \$145,489 GF the second year from deferral of filling vacant positions.
- ***Sale of Forestry Parcels.*** Includes language authorizing the sale of five forestry tracts located in Amelia, Emporia, Kilmarnock, Lexington, and Floyd. This action is estimated to produce \$340,000 in revenue to the general fund.