

VIRGINIA CONSERVATION NETWORK

FY23-24 BUDGET AMENDMENT PRIORITIES

Investing in our natural resources is essential to ensure every Virginian has access to clean air, clean water, and our natural landscapes. The following outlines the status of Virginia Conservation Network's tracked budget amendments from the General Assembly's proposals.

CLEAN WATER & FLOOD RESILIENCY

Budget Item	Status	Description
99 #1h	✳️	\$4.0M in FY24 to capitalize the Governor's Blue Catfish Industries Development Fund *Amended to \$2M
99 #1s		
108 #1h	✅	\$175K for two FTE to help evaluate strategies to achieve Chesapeake Bay WIP goals.
108 #5h	❌	\$500K to Dept of Forestry to conduct a technical study of changes to forest and tree canopy coverage.
108 #2s	✅	
160 #1h	✳️	\$345K in FY24 to sustain the VIMS shellfish breeding program *Amended to \$100K
160 #3h	❌	Funds study of menhaden as a forage fish and for its economic value * Amended to \$280K
160 #1s	✅	
276 #4h	✅	Provides \$1500 to businesses that recycle oyster shells, caps at \$250,000 *Amended to \$100k cap
388 #1s	✳️	
373 #1h	✅	Convenes a work group to develop recommendations for a program to accelerate nutrient reductions in the Chesapeake Bay watershed
373 #1s		
374 #7h	✅	\$200K each year and one FTE to establish an anti-littering educational program
374 #6h	✅	Two positions to enhance training and technical assistance provided by the department to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts
374 #2s		
374 #9h	✅	Convene a stakeholder group to meet the agricultural water quality obligations under Virginia's Phase III Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan
374 #5s		
374 #5h	✅	Funds DCR to create a marketing initiative to build awareness of Virginia's agricultural cost-share program.
374 #9s		
374 #6h	❌	\$1.9M to support programming for the 47 Soil and Water Conservation District offices * Amended to \$1M
374 #6s	✳️	
373 #7h	❌	Grant fund to incentivize the most cost-effective agricultural best management practices to achieve the Phase III Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan
374 #4s	✅	

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CLEAN WATER & FLOOD RESILIENCY CONTINUED

Budget Item	Status	Description
374 #3h 374 #1s	✓	Funding to upgrade and develop the Conservation Application Suite (CAS) for the Virginia Agricultural Cost Share Program
376 #1s	✓	Allocate Ten Positions Using Existing NGF Funding for DCR
378 #3h	✗	Prohibits the sale and distribution of any high PAH pavement sealant
378 #5h	✗	Funding for the Hazardous Substance Aboveground Storage Tank Fund
380 #9h	✗	Funding to support Keep Virginia Beautiful in order to support its efforts to reduce litter, encourage recycling, and promote community beautification across the Commonwealth.
380 #1s	✓	
382 #1h 382 #5h C-52.60 #2s	✗	Expand and upgrade infrastructure at the Virginia Fisheries and Aquatic Wildlife Center in Charles City County for the purposes of freshwater mussel propagation and restoration
380 #6h* C-80 #1s**	*	\$9.9M, based on the 2022 Needs Assessment from the DEQ, in order to meet Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan. *Amended to \$10M, **Amended to \$20M
389 #1h 389 #1s	✗	\$3.75M in FY24 to clean the Elizabeth River

CLIMATE & CLEAN ENERGY

Budget Item	Status	Description
121 #1h	*	\$20M in FY24 for the Virginia Brownfield & Coal Mine Renewable Energy Grant Fund *Amended to \$5M
121 #1s	✓	Funds the Commonwealth Solar and Economic Development Program
122 #2s	*	Reallocates \$10M from the Virginia Power Innovation Fund to the Commonwealth Energy Research Fund established by SB 1166 *Amended to \$2M
272 #1h	✗	Establishes a Regulatory "Sandbox" Program
272 #2h	✗	Funds the Department of Planning and Budget to implement a continuous Regulatory Budget Program
490 #1s	✗	\$80K to convene a work group to assess the competitiveness of energy-intensive trade-exposed industry manufacturers

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LAND & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Budget Item	Status	Description
98 #2h	✘	\$6M each year for the Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund
99 #3h	✳	additional \$1.3M in FY24 for grants to increase meat processing capacity *Amended to \$1.25M
98 #2s	✳	\$5M in FY24 to the Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund *Amended to \$2M
100 #1h	✳	One positions to fulfill the Virginia Invasive Species Management Plan
100 #2s	✔	*Reduced to one Pesticide Inspector for Southwest Virginia Region
108 #1h	✳	Two positions to fulfill the Virginia Invasive Species Management Plan
108 #3s	✔	*Reduced to \$175K for “new policy position”
374 #8s	✔	
382 #1s	✳	
108 #6h	✘	\$1M each year to match federal programs providing funds for agricultural and conservation easements
129 #14h	✘	\$50K in FY24 to cover any costs for the Farm to School Program
136 #20s	✘	\$75K in FY24 to fund a subscription for the Statewide Agricultural Experience Tracker
228 #2h	✘	Additional funding for operating costs and student membership for the Virginia FFA
228 #3h		
228 #2s		
374 #4h	✔	\$593K in FY24 and five positions for the Natural Heritage Program
375 #10h	✘	\$69M for State Parks System
375 #4s	✳	\$15M for State Parks Personnel *Amended to \$7.5M
375 #13s	✘	\$111,334 for Cumberland Courthouse/Bear Creek Lake State Park Connector Trail
375 #2h	✔	
375 #23h	✘	\$5M in FY24 for the Get Outdoors Fund
375 #8h		
375 #4h	✘	Establishes a State Trails Program
375 #3s	✳	Funding for state-owned Natural Area Preserves
C-51 #1h	✔	*Amended to create Trails Workgroup
375 #5s	✘	\$1.1M for the Natural Heritage Program

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LAND & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CONTINUED

Budget Item	Status	Description
375 #6h	✘	Removes restrictions on acquisition of land for Natural Area Preserves
C-51 #2s		
375 #7s	✘	Additional \$14M each year for the Virginia Land Conservation Fund
375 #8h	✘	Additional \$4M in FY24 for the Virginia Land Conservation Fund
375 #15h		
386 #11h	✔	\$3M in FY24 to the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund
386 #20s	✘	
452 #1h	✘	\$5M in FY24 to complete high priority elk crossings. Remaining funding will be prioritized to implement wildlife crossings projects. *Amended in language only
452 #3s	*	

LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION

Budget Item	Status	Description
114 #12s	✘	Additional \$75M in FY24 for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund
114 #23h		
117 #1h	✔	\$50K to cover costs of regulations for electric vehicle charging for residential housing with more than 25 units
121 #4h	✘	\$25M for the Electric Vehicle Rural Infrastructure Fund *Amended to \$50K to set up fund and pursue federal dollars
121 #2s	*	
121 #6h	✘	\$40M in FY24 to fund the Electric Vehicle Rebate Program
452 Q & 452 R	*	\$300M for highway expansion projects *Amended to \$200M
452 #1s (oppose)	✔	Funding to expand I-81
452 #11s (oppose)	✘	\$400M to replace Norris Bridge
452 #9s (oppose)	✘	\$375M for Martinsville Southern Connector
452 #4h (oppose)		
452 #8s	✘	\$200K in FY24 to update the 12-year-old State Bike and Pedestrian Plan
452 #10h	✘	\$20M to support the completion of the South Hampton Roads Trail and the Birthplace of America Trail
452 #15h		