

S.L. 2018-5 AND OTHER LEGISLATIVE BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture, Natural and Economic Resources Budget Highlights

The Conference Report provides net appropriations of \$603 million for the State's six agricultural, natural and economic resources agencies, a 9.6% increase or \$52.9 million above the amount enacted for FY 2017-18. Highlights of the Conference Committee and other legislative actions in Agriculture, Natural and Economic Resources follow below:

Adjustments to Appropriations: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

- **(Page D 6, Items 5 and 6, and Page D 10, Items 29, 30, and 31)** Repurposes \$300,000 recurring and \$400,000 nonrecurring from cultch planting funds for other shellfish, oyster, and aquaculture projects.
- **(Page D 7, Items 8 and 9)** Provides \$3.7 million nonrecurring to draw down an additional \$19 million in federal funds for the State Revolving Loan Funds.
- **(Page D 7, Items 10 and 11, and Page D 8, Items 21 and 22)** Provides \$1 million recurring and \$2.9 million nonrecurring for various items related to PFAS, including GenX.
- **(Page D 12, Item 32)** Transfers \$5 million nonrecurring from the Utility Account in Commerce to the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund.

Special Provisions: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

- **(Section 13.1, Page 121)** Authorizes the Governor to close facilities that are illegally discharging PFAS. The provision also requires the Collaboratory to conduct testing for PFAS across the State; creates a grant fund for local governments to connect affected entities to public water lines; and, specified the use of various funds appropriated to address PFAS, including Gen X.
- **(Section 13.7, Page 128)** Allocates \$15 million from the Shallow Draft Fund to provide a forgivable loan to a private partner for the purchase of a shallow draft hopper dredge.

Adjustments to Appropriations: Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR)

(Page D 24, Item 64, and Page D 28, Item 100) Provides \$8 million nonrecurring for grants to state and local governments and nonprofits for parks and clean water initiatives in the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

Adjustments to Appropriations: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS):

(Page D 59, Item 149) Provides \$14.7 million for the Farmland Preservation Trust Fund.

Adjustments to Appropriations: Department of Commerce

- **(Page D 65, Items 160 and 161, and Page D 66, Items 164 and 165)** Transfers the International Recruiting Coordination Office and the Outdoor Recreation Recruitment Office to EDPNC and provides funds for an Office in India.
- **(Page D 67, Item 171, and Page D 74, Item 191)** Provides \$1 million to the One NC Small Business Fund, and \$2.5 million to the Carolina Small Business Development Fund.

Special Provisions: Department of Commerce

- **(Section 15.1, Page 134)** Expands the JDIG cap to \$35 million each year and \$45 million in years with high-yield projects. The provision also sets geographic limitations for the cap; stratifies the JDIG application fee by tier; sets withholdings and Utility Account transfers for high-yield and transformative projects; and, eliminates the adjustment factors in economic development programs.