

## Conference Committee on General Government

### Selected Agency Budget Highlights

The Conference Committee budget proposal for General Government agencies totals \$517.8 million, excluding agency receipts, in General Fund appropriations for FY 2021-22, which is \$88.6 million or 20.6% more than the base budget for FY 2021-22. The FY 2022-23 budget is \$494.1 million, excluding agency receipts, which is \$64.9 million or 15.1% more than the base budget for FY 2022-23.

The Conference Budget includes \$910 million from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund.

Selected highlights from the House Budget proposal for General Government agencies follow below.

#### Department of Administration (DOA)

##### Committee Report Items

- **(Page F9, Item 6)** Provides **federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARP)** funds for the **RETOOLNC Program**, which administers **grants to small, historically underutilized businesses** (\$20 M nonrecurring in FY 2021-22).
- **(Page F10, Items 14-15)** Provides additional funds for organizations that **provide services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault** (\$1,000,000 recurring).

#### Office of State Budget and Management

##### Committee Report Items

- **(Page F37, Item 65)** Provides ARP funds to the **League of Municipalities for the creation of an audit software grant program** for tracking local use of funds related to the COVID-19 pandemic (\$15 M nonrecurring in FY 2021-22).
- **(Page F37, Item 66)** Provides ARP funds for guidance and technical assistance to localities in the administration of Local Recovery Funds. These funds will be distributed evenly between the **League of Municipalities, the Association of County Commissioners, and the Regional Councils of Government** (\$30 M nonrecurring in FY 2021-22).
- **(Page F37, Item 66)** Provides ARP funds **for the Towns of Apex and Huntersville** to backfill for the gap in ARP federal funds due to a funding formula issue (\$23.5 M nonrecurring in FY 2022-22).
- **(Page F37, Item 67)** Provides ARP funds to **State-recognized American Indian tribes** to respond to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic (\$10 M nonrecurring in FY 2021-22).

## General Assembly (NCGA)

### Committee Report Items

- **(Page F73, Item 138)** Provides **ARP funds to support the legislature’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic**, including improvements in information technology (IT) and the legislative complex (\$21.8 M nonrecurring in FY 2021-22, including \$2.35 M for premium pay and bonuses to essential workers; \$11 M for staff resources; \$8 M for broadband/other technology improvements and committee room enhancements; and \$450,000 to offset revenue losses in legislative food services revenue).

## Housing Finance Agency (HFA)

### Committee Report Items

- **(Page F89, Item 159)** Provides ARP funds for the **Workforce Housing Loan Program** (\$170 M nonrecurring in FY 2021-22).

## Department of Insurance (DOI)

### Committee Report Items

- **(Page F109, Item 187)** Provides ARP funds to for a **\$10,000 base grant** to each eligible unit to help **mitigate revenue losses to the volunteer fire departments** across the State due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic (\$8 M nonrecurring in FY 2021-22).

### Special Provisions

- **(Section 30.2)** Modifies current law to waive the existing **Volunteer Fire Department Grant Fund** program’s local matching requirements for grants to purchase firefighter equipment.
- **(Section 30.3)** **Suspends collections** of worker’s compensation premiums **from members of participating local fire and rescue units**. Payments of claims resulting during the biennium will be paid from the special fund cash balance.

## Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (DMVA)

### Committee Report Items

- **(Page F138, Item 243)** Provides funds to continue support for various activities focused on **maintaining the military presence and defense industry** across the State (\$1 M nonrecurring in FY 2022-23; S.L. 2020-24 appropriated an additional \$2 M nonrecurring for FY 2020-21).
- **(Page F140, Item 247)** Provides additional funds to **increase the number of scholarships awarded** to eligible children of disabled veterans (\$2 M recurring from the Escheat Fund).

- **(Page F143, Item 253)** Provides funds for the required match for an anticipated construction grant to build a **new veterans skilled nursing facility in Wake County** (\$30 M nonrecurring in FY 2021-22).
- **(Page F143, Item 257)** Provides funds for a directed grant to **The Independence Fund, Inc.** to expand a justice intervention pilot for **veterans across the State** (\$2 M nonrecurring in FY 2021-22).

## Department of Revenue (DOR)

### Committee Report Items

- **(Page F154, Item 275)** Establishes the **Business Recovery Grant Program** using ARP funds to provide economic support to businesses that suffered **substantial economic damage from the COVID-19 pandemic** (\$500 M nonrecurring in FY 2021-22).

### Special Provisions

- **(Section 34.3A)** Directs DOR to allocate the **Business Recovery Grant Program** funds between **Hospitality Grants** for businesses in the arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodations, and food services industries, and **Reimbursement Grants** for businesses in all other industries.