

Virginia Association of Museums Legislative Update

Issue 2009-1 Gov. Kaine's Budget Announcement

12/17/2008

Governor Presents Recommended Amendments to 2008-2010 Biennium Budget

This morning Governor Tim Kaine spoke before the money committees of the House of Delegates and the Senate to present his amendments to the current biennium budget. Governor Kaine emphasized that because state agencies were directed to start preparing for the apparent slow-down in the economy back in the Spring of 2007, and additional cuts have been made since then (October 2007, February 2008, October 2008), Virginia is not in as bad a situation as other states. However, \$2.9 billion in additional cuts to the 2008-2020 biennial budget are necessary. These cuts will be accomplished through streamlining state government (read: layoffs), pulling back on conservation easements, and cuts to previously untouched areas such as Medicaid and K-12 education, among other steps. He also proposed doubling the tax on cigarettes from \$.30 a pack to \$.60 a pack. You can read his entire speech, including all of the particulars of the budget cuts and other steps to be taken at:

<http://www.dpb.state.va.us/budget/buddoc09/pdf/parta/overview2009.pdf>. For a full report on the budget recommendations, including adjustments to non-general or special fund appropriations, go to the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget website at www.dpb.state.va.us/budget.

The following figures reflect the Governor's recommended adjustments (for state agency museums and state agencies who affect museums by Secretariat) to the current budget year (FY 2009), and new totals for next year, with the increase/decrease noted and effect.

	New			Some
Office of Education	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 10 Adjs	Steps Taken
Frontier Culture Museum	(271,751)	1,535,892	(276,279)	3 positions cut
Gunston Hall	(87,151)	548,749	(96,838)	> admission \$ Delay maint.
Library of Virginia	(600,000)	30,409,896	(934,134)	
Jamestown-Yorktown Fndn.	(1,319,027)	7,584,459	(1,341,670)	4 positions cut < programs < admin exps.
Science Museum of Virginia	(365,520)	5,336,618	(284,702)	6 positions cut Closed > day
Virginia Museum of Fine Art	(1,539,000)	11,252,169	+352,403	12 positions +
Virginia Commission for the Arts	(928,725)	5,288,410	(930,039)	3 grant programs cut 3 grant programs <
Office of Natural Resources				
Chippokes Plantation	(24,325)	137,842	(24,325)	
Virginia Museum of Natural History	(384,527)	2,661,503	(479,559)	5 positions cut Research program cut Closed > days
Department of Historic Resources	(439,379)	4,162,750	(326,140)	4 positions cut

-Montpelier (restoration matching fund) 134,196

Office of Commerce & Trade

Virginia Tourism Authority (800,000) 13,651,121 (818,209) 1 position cut

State Grants to Non-state Agencies

There was \$0 in the biennium budget for this category and that remains unchanged for both years.

Budget Hearings to Be Held

Once again, the General Assembly will hold public budget hearings around the Commonwealth. This is an excellent opportunity to make sure that the case for your organization, and for the museum community, is made before members of the money committees. The locations are as follows:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2009

Alexandria 10:00 AM

Northern Virginia Community College, Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall

Abingdon 10:00 AM

Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Grand Hall

Newport News 12:00 PM

Christopher Newport University, Performing Arts Center

Charlottesville 12:00 PM

Piedmont Virginia Community College, V. Earl Dickenson Humanities and Fine Arts Building

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2009

Lynchburg 12:00 PM

Central Virginia Community College

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2009

Richmond 1:00 PM

General Assembly Building, House Room D

Guidelines

The following guidelines usually apply to the hearings:

- * Registration to speak usually available one hour before the hearings.
- * Speakers will be taken in the order of registration.
- * Each person may register only one speaker at a time.
- * Speakers are asked to limit their comments to three minutes or less.
- * Speakers representing groups and organizations should consolidate remarks to reduce duplication.

Money Committee Assignments

*The following are current assignments to the **House Appropriations** Committee:*

Putney (chair), Hamilton (vice-chair), Morton, Tata, Ingram, May, Sherwood, Cox, Landes, Jones (S. C.), Hogan, O'Bannon, Lingamfelter, Abbitt, Phillips, Scott (J.M.), Joannou, Brink, Ware, (O.), Howell (A. T.), BaCote, Dance, Shannon, Bowling

*The following are current assignments to the **Senate Finance** Committee:*

Colgan (chair) , Wampler, Stosch, Houck, Howell, Saslaw, Stolle, Quayle, Norment, Watkins, Hanger, Miller (Y.B.), Marsh, Lucas, Whipple, Reynolds

2009 General Assembly Session Calendar

The 2009 session of the legislature will convene on January 14 at 12pm. One of the first acts of the assembly will be to pass a calendar of events and deadlines. The following has already been indicated on the State Budget website:

Tentative Dates:

January 14 – Session convenes

February 8 – Money Committees report budgets

February 12 – Budget Bill crossover

February 29 – General Assembly adjourns

April 8 – Reconvened General Assembly session (“veto session”) opens

Who’s My Legislator?

Everyone is a part of the legislative process, so don’t hesitate to get involved! Let your legislators know your opinions on issues of importance to you. Remember – they are your representatives and have been elected to their positions to represent your views. To find out who represents who and how to contact him or her, go to:

<http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/main?openform>

Questions? Comments? Have a bill you would like for us to track? Contact me at mcarlock@vamuseums.org or 804-788-5821.

Margo Carlock
Executive Director