



WILLIAM & MARY GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

2023 General Assembly Report

Governor's Amendments to 2022-24 Biennial Budget

The Governor's Amended 2022-24 Biennial Budget released in late December targeted major higher education related investment areas including mental health services (\$9M), credentials/career services/workforce (\$32.3M), internships (\$5M), and research and institution specific initiatives (\$15.3M). W&M retained previous funding levels and welcomed proposed increases to salaries, financial aid, and maintenance reserve. New funding was also proposed for salary increases (5%), a one-time bonus of \$1,500 effective 12/1/23, and an additional merit bonus of up to 10% for top performing state employees contingent upon revenue collections. Most notably, the Governor's amended budget included \$8M for critical historic campus renovations, over \$6.6M for ISC IV equipment, and \$20M in debt authorization for auxiliary projects.

2023 General Assembly Session

The Office of Government Relations monitored over 100 bills on a broad range of issues impacting the university, including but not limited to student health and campus safety, academic programs and licensure, financial aid and scholarships, capital construction procurement, setting tuition and fees, and ensuring employment opportunities for our graduates.

W&M's legislative priorities included seeking additional state investment for critical historic campus renovations on the Wren Building and President's House and ensuring funding for ISC IV equipment and auxiliary debt authorization remained.

The House and Senate budget committees introduced their proposed budget bills on Sunday, February 5. A brief summary of their actions impacting W&M is below.

House Bill 1400 recommendations impacting W&M:

- Provided \$75M (\$2.3M for W&M) to keep in-state undergraduate tuition increases no higher than 1%
- Maintained FY24 financial aid recommendation
- Increased state employee compensation from 5% to 7%
- Increased FY24 maintenance reserve by \$1.5M
- Increased historic campus renovation funding to \$14.2M

Senate Bill 800 recommendations impacting W&M:

- Increase of \$2.9M in operating funds
- Increase of \$440K for need-based financial aid
- Increased state employee compensation from 5% to 7%
- Increased FY24 maintenance reserve by \$744K
- Increased historic campus renovation funding to \$12.9M

The General Assembly adjourned on February 25 with only a "skinny budget" agreed to by conference-committee members. Reconvened Session was held April 12 and the legislature considered the Governor's amendments to the skinny budget as well as amendments to 78 bills and 3 vetoes. Later this spring, Governor Youngkin is expected to call a Special Session to continue negotiations on the budget.