

Governor Warner's Vetoes to the Appropriation Bill for the 2002-04 biennium

On May 17, 2002, Governor Warner issued the following statement:

“I have signed [House Bill 30](#), the appropriations bill for the 2002-04 biennium, including six line item vetoes. In taking these actions, I want to emphasize that the budget achieves most of the goals sought by the General Assembly and by me. We were able to adopt a budget on time under very difficult fiscal circumstances, with a consistent spirit of cooperation between the legislative and executive branches to do what is best for the people of Virginia.”

“While we did much to restore Virginia's fiscal integrity, I do have objections to certain actions taken by the General Assembly in the appropriation bill. I attempted to address these concerns through amendments submitted to House Bill 30 in the 2002 Reconvened Session. However, the General Assembly did not concur with my suggested amendments. Accordingly, I have exercised the power given to me under Virginia's Constitution to veto certain items.”

Items Vetoed:

Item 108, Paragraph E

“The General Assembly's action to direct my administration to merge the Department of Business assistance with another agency in the Commerce and Trade Secretariat is premature. My Commission on Efficiency and Effectiveness, chaired by Governor Wilder, is taking a systematic and coordinated approach to issues of consolidation of state government. The commission will report back to me with specific recommendations in the fall.”

Item 135, Paragraph M

“For the same reason given for Item 108, I am vetoing this item which requires a plan to merge the Virginia Tourism Authority with the Virginia Economic Development Authority.”

Item 138, Paragraph O

“It is my view that an objective study should be done of the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind, and Multi-Disabled in Hampton and the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind in Staunton, as opposed to the merger of the Hampton school into the Staunton school as required in the enrolled bill.”

Item 289

“For the same reason given for Item 108, I am vetoing the provisions that call for the elimination of the Department of the State Internal Auditor.”

Item 503, Paragraph C and Paragraph II of Sections 3-1.01

“The enrolled bill impinges upon my responsibility to manage state government by restricting my authority to hire senior staff in the executive department. It also likely violates the separation of powers doctrine. While I may elect not to fill all the at-will positions authorized under law, particularly given the financial constraints under which we must operate, I believe this prerogative of the Executive must be maintained without limitation.”