

# Senator **MONTY MASON**



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## **Senator Monty Mason Has Over \$13 Million In Budget Amendments Recommended by Senate Finance and Budget Committee**

**WILLIAMSBURG** — Senator Monty Mason had more than \$13 million in amendments recommended to be included in Virginia’s budget by the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee. These amendments support a wide range of programs and organizations but would help create good jobs, support after school programs, and preserve historic resources.

**Senator Mason said of these accomplishments:** “I’m proud to represent such a deeply historic area of the Commonwealth and am working to make sure our region has the tools and funding we need to continue our growth. I look forward to the continued budget process, protecting our communities’ interests in the Virginia Senate.”

1st District-specific highlights include:

- **Williamsburg Bray School Project** - \$1,000,000 in funding over two years to help with the ongoing expenses of the restoration and relocation of the Bray School, a recently discovered building on William and Mary’s campus thought to be one of the oldest schools for Black children in the country. This in addition to the \$2,500,000 already in Governor Northam’s original introduced budget.
- **Soundscapes (Newport News)** - \$90,000 in funding over two years to support the expansion of Soundscapes, a free music and performance after-school educational program, to Newport News students between 1st grade through age 25.
- **Edmarc’s Children’s Hospice** - \$500,000 to help expand Edmarc’s Children’s Hospice services to Williamsburg and adjacent counties. Edmarc provides pediatric hospice and home care to children with life-threatening illnesses.

Other Highlights:

- **Great Expectations (Virginia Community College System)** - \$1,000,000 to establish a grant program for community colleges to provide additional resources to the Great Expectations Program, which supports young adults who have experienced foster care. These funds would support the hiring of college coaches or mentors, housing stipends, child care, and transportation needs for participants.
- **Advanced Manufacturing Talent Investment Program and Fund** - \$2,000,000 to support the Advanced Manufacturing Talent Investment Program and Fund, which would help increase credentialing of advanced manufacturing workers like the ones at the Newport News Shipyard. This

amendment provides funding for my legislation which set a statewide goal of 25,000 new advanced manufacturing credentials in the next 20 years.

- **Seniors Farmer Market Nutrition Program-** \$375,000 to expand the Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services voucher program for Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition. This allows farmers markets to accept food vouchers provided to the elderly population to both give that population access to healthy food at an affordable cost and supports our local farmers.
- **Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service (University of Virginia)-** \$600,000 to support the Weldon Cooper Center's work making projections and collecting data for Virginia Public Schools. The projections that the Weldon Cooper Center is able to make are extremely beneficial to ensuring that public schools are running smoothly and have the appropriate resources to continue operating effectively and in a cost-efficient manner.
- **State-Funded Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program-** \$553,494 to continue funding and expand the program that allows for relatives to be guardians to children instead of placing them in foster care. A major barrier to relatives taking in children is that they cannot financially support them. This helps alleviate those costs in the same way foster parents are compensated for taking care of foster children.
- **Brain Injury Case Management-** \$1,140,000 to expand the management of cases relating to traumatic brain injury in areas around the Commonwealth. This is currently an area of public health that impacts many Virginians but does not have the funding necessary in some areas to effectively manage cases.

Though recommended by the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee, these amendments will still need to be considered and approved by the entire Senate and then by a conference committee of both the Senate and House of Delegates. If included in both of those budgets, it would be a part of the General Assembly's budget presented to the Governor for his review. If these budget items make it through all of these steps, they will be included in the biennium budget of Virginia for the next two years.

A full list of Senator Mason's proposed budget amendments can be found [here](#), and the Senate Finance and Appropriation Committee reports about which amendments will be accepted can be found [here](#).

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