

RMC Legislative Committee
February 22, 2016
3pm-4pm via Conference Call
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Erroll Maddox

Odette Ramos, Community Development Network

Steve McHenry, MARBIDCO

Scott Warner, MidShore Regional Council

Joann Richart-Young, Cecil County Government

RMC Staff:

Don Ryan

Charlotte Davis, Executive Director

Nancy Forlker

Meredith Donaho, Administrative and

Doris Mason, Board Chair

Communications Assistant

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:05pm.

Chairman Josh Hastings was unavailable to join the meeting, Charlotte Davis welcomed participants and facilitated the meeting.

First item began with a review of 2016 Legislation RMC is tracking. The following legislation was discussed by Charlotte:

HB713/SB494 – State Department of Education – Community-Partnered School Behavioral Health Services Programs – Reporting System and Report. The bill requires State Department of Education to develop and implement a standardized reporting system to determine the effectiveness of community-partnered school behavioral health services programs. Standardized reporting uses measures that collect data on the outcomes of students who receive behavioral health, including academic, behavioral, social, and emotional functioning and progress. Recommendation: the Board initially moved to support the bill, it will be sent to the Health Care Committee for their review.

HB1110/SB645 – Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund - Allocation of Funds. Requires funds to be distributed to soil conservation districts to assist farmers and counties with nonpoint source pollution control projects. Recommendation: the Board moved to support the bill, testimony has been written.

HB1297/SB770 – Education – Public High Schools – Agriculture Science. Requires each county school board to implement a specified agriculture curriculum in at least one high school or career and technology education center in each county. A challenge may be finding the agriculture educators to instruct the curriculum. Recommendation: Provide general support in written testimony.

HB723/SB585 – Transportation – Highway User Revenues- Distribution to Municipalities. Altering the authorized uses of highway user revenues; repealing obsolete distributions of highway user revenues to Baltimore City, counties, and municipalities for specified fiscal years; requiring that specified additional distributions of highway user revenues be made under specified circumstances to municipalities in specified fiscal years for specified purposes. Recommendation: Hold on decision, check with MACO.

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HB1167/SB680 – Biotechnology Investment Tax Credit – Investment in Qualified Companies in Low-Income Areas. Would create a 75% income tax credit to qualified companies in the One Maryland counties: Dorchester, Allegany, Garrett, Somerset.

HB1168/SB681 – Cybersecurity Investment Tax Credit – Investment in Qualified Companies in Low-Income Areas. Provides 50% state income tax credit to qualified cybersecurity companies in One Maryland counties.

Concern: These tax credits do not apply to all rural counties

Recommendation: Support with amendment: include all rural counties or change index to include a broader area; Board moved to hold on decision.

HB1409/SB263 – Payment in Lieu of Taxes – State Forests, State Parks, and Wildlife Management Areas. Prohibiting a county from receiving specified revenues derived from a State forest or State park reserve and concession operations within a county if the county receives specified payments in a fiscal year; requiring specified payments to counties for State forests, State parks, and wildlife management areas that are exempt from the property tax; providing for a payment of \$250,000 for each open space unit in specified counties. Particularly impacts Garrett, Allegany, Dorchester, and Somerset. Local jurisdictions would benefit.

Recommendation: Motion to monitor.

HB1415 – Cable Service – Broadband Connection Requirement – Enforcement

Requiring that a franchise agreement include a service connection requirement for wired broadband service. Enhances penalties on Comcast.

Recommendation: Submitted a letter for more information.

HB1464/SB927 – Program Open Space Trust Fund Act of 2016.

This bill will receive support from the Maryland Farm Bureau and Grain Producers Association.

Recommendation: Testimony has been written in support of this bill.

SB411 – Income Tax – Credit for Physician Preceptors in Areas with a Health Care Workforce Shortage.

Provides income tax credit to physician preceptors in areas with a shortage of health care workforce.

Concern: The bill does not include nurse practitioners, which was initially excluded because of costs.

Recommendation: Motion to initially support, forwarding to Health Care Commission for review and input.

HB1496 – Farmers’ Rights Act. Requiring specified production contracts to include a specified disclosure statement and cover sheet containing specified information, particularly concerns poultry grower contracts. Recommendation: Motion to not take a position.

HB599/SB496 – Poultry Litter Management Act. Requiring an integrator to be responsible for the removal and delivery of all excess manure; requiring integrators, or manure brokers or manure transporters working under contract with an integrator, to deliver excess manure only to specified facilities. Would ultimately impact farmers who sell excess manure to other farmers, loss of additional income. Recommendation: Motion to monitor, no consensus to support.

HB471/SB622 – Angel Investor Tax Credit. A tax credit against the State income tax for investors that make qualified investments in Maryland innovation businesses. The credit is equal to 50% of the

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qualified investment. Concern: rural jurisdictions are shut out, if it were amended to quarterly it may give some time for rural jurisdictions to be involved.

Recommendation: Motion to monitor.

SB737 – Economic Development – Rural Economic Development Program and One Maryland Tax Credit. The bill is different from last year, provides a 10 year property tax-exemption, sales & use tax exemption for businesses certified by Department of Commerce to incentivize them to locate and expand in rural counties. Recommendation: Support with amendments – motion to include Cumberland as jurisdiction that will qualify, expand the areas that will qualify.

SB738 – Economic Development – Maryland Economic Development Program and One Maryland Tax Credit. Similar to SB737, expands to include One Maryland counties to be eligible for tax credit.
Recommendation: Motion to support with amendment to include all counties.

HB843 – Tax Credits – Evaluations and Sunset Provisions

Includes Rural Economic Development, expands tax credits subject to legislative review and expands the review. Recommendation: Motion to monitor.

Other Bills to Consider:

HB759 – Home Act of 2016. Prohibits discriminating potential tenants based on source of income; a landlord cannot deny a tenant a lease with a Section 8 housing voucher. Recommendation: No recommendation at this time.

HB326 – Housing and Community Development – Business Lending and Neighborhood Revitalization. Bill expands the areas the Neighborhood Business Development Program is authorized to provide financial assistance. Recommendation: Motion to monitor.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:55 pm

Next meeting: Monday, March 7, 2016 at 3pm via conference call.