

RMC Legislative Committee
March 7, 2016
3pm-4pm via Conference Call
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Josh Hastings, Chair
Steve McHenry, MARBIDCO
Temi Oshiyoye, DHMH
Scott Warner, MidShore Regional Council
Lara Wilson, Maryland Rural Health Association
Joann Richart-Young, Cecil County Government

RMC Staff:
Charlotte Davis, Executive Director
Meredith Donaho, Administrative and
Communications Assistant

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:03pm.

Chairman Josh Hastings welcomed participants and facilitated the meeting.

First item began with a review of 2016 Legislation RMC is tracking. Chairman Hastings asked the committee to review the minutes from the previous meeting which included legislation discussed, no changes or additions were made to the minutes.

Charlotte explained a few changes to the tracking list:

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.

Position has been changed: No Position; the bill creates general mandate funding and the Governor opposes.

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

This bill establishes a Program Open Space (POS) Trust Fund in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is a continuation of the existing special fund into which transfer tax revenues are deposited.

Position has been changed: No Position. The bill is opposed by DBM.

Charlotte also discussed SB843/HB1255 – Tax Credits – Evaluations and Sunset Provisions. The bill would eliminate One Maryland, enterprise zone, Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise (RISE), biotechnology investment, and businesses that create new jobs tax credits. DLS conducted a study last year, they have received complaints the bulk of tax credits went to support Baltimore and not rural areas. Chairman Hastings asked if the reason Baltimore received the bulk of the credits is because rural areas were just not applying or not aware the tax credits were available. Charlotte explained there is concern the One Maryland tax credit had to be used in conjunction with other tax programs, usually tax credits in a package, and qualified businesses have to be located in a PFA (Priority Funding Area), which limits the qualification for many rural areas. In addition, the program has been cited as very expensive, the study found it was investing \$60,000 per job. Some rural legislators have proposed eliminating the plan in the

past, see it as corporate welfare.

Recommendation: Committee moved to continue monitoring the bill.

Charlotte also reported the Health Care Committee had reached a conclusive decision to support SB 411/HB1494 – Income Tax – Credit for Preceptors in Areas with Health Care Workforce Shortage. A letter of support will be provided to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and support testimony will be provided to the Ways and Means Committee.

Third item, Chairman Hastings provided update on DLS recommended cuts to Rural Legacy Program, more information will be provided soon, he will be meeting with Ann Swanson to discuss further. Charlotte reported that DNR is opposing the cuts.

Fourth item, mention of other bills for the committee to consider. Including:
HB 1428/SB 748 – Sustainable Growth and Agriculture Preservation Act. Charlotte reported Delegate Rose is the sponsor and contacted RMC to take the bill into consideration. The bill extends by which a developer must obtain final approval of a preliminary plan for a residential subdivision in order to be exempt from specified land use and sewerage criteria established in the Act. There was concern that the bill may not be going anywhere, in past years similar attempts have been repealed.
Recommendation: The committee proposed monitoring the bill.

HB 144/ SB 337 – Libraries – Regional, State, and County – Funding. Charlotte reported Sharan Marshall has asked the committee to review the bill. The bill will provide additional funding for county libraries by accelerating increases to the library funding formula, this will restore funding that was reduced during the recession. This funding will be needed to help libraries expand their centers, services, invest more in their workforce and create a new business model. **Recommendation:** The Committee reached a consensus to support the bill with a letter to the House Ways & Means Committee.

No other bills were mentioned to be discussed.

The Senate Subcommittee will meet Tuesday, March 8th for the budget, funding for RMPiF/RMF will be discussed.

No other items were mentioned to be discussed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 pm

Next meeting: Monday, March 21st, 2016 at 3pm via conference call.