

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

Participants:

Josh Hastings, Chair
Bill Christopher
Joanne Richart-Young
Doris Mason
Erroll Mattox
Steve McHenry
Scott Warner
Sara Visintainer
Odette Ramos
Kim Kratovil

RMC Staff:

Charlotte Davis, Executive Director
Meredith Donaho, Administrative and
Communications Assistant

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

First item was review of the 2016 Legislative Tracker, including mention of two bills that were added:

SB1097 – Local Government Tort Claims Act – Regional Development Councils

The bill was introduced late and will be heard in the House on April 5th. The bill will help local regional councils by recognizing them as local government and providing them with insurance. The regional councils will include the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, the Mid-Shore Regional Council, the Upper Shore Regional Council, the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland, the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, and the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland.

Recommendation: Support the bill.

SB707 – Freestanding Medical Facilities – Certificate of Need, Rates and Definition

Bill Summary: The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) must issue a license to a freestanding medical facility that receives a Certificate of Need or an exemption from obtaining a Certificate of Need. The bill will help to preserve access to emergency and primary care services in rural areas.

Recommendation: The bill is currently in the House, recommend to monitor the bill.

Other bill updates mentioned:

HB326 – Housing and Community Development – Business Lending and Business Revitalization, has received a favorable report in the Senate.

HB462 – Program Open Space – Transfer Tax Repayment – Use of Funds, was signed into law the morning of April 4th.

Outstanding bills: SB294, SB295, and SB840 – EITC bills, these bills can be looked at in the interim to determine how they can be strengthened in the future, along with the manufacturing bills.

The FY2017 Budget passed Tuesday, March 29th, and included \$2 million in RMPFI funds. The Chair thanked the committee for their support and work in helping to get RMPFI funded.

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Communications:

RMC sent a press release on Wednesday, March 30th about the inclusion of RMPIF funds in FY17 Budget, and drafted thank you letters to Senate Budget and Taxation Committee members, and House Appropriations Members. These letters will be signed by Doris & Charlotte and will be sent out soon. Copies will be provided to legislative members. Charlotte will also draft a Legislative Session Review and will distribute.

Interim Activities:

Several activities the Committee can do in the interim that were discussed –

- Continue to build relationships with legislators outside of session, particularly sponsors for the manufacturing and EITC bills to work together on strengthening these bills for next session
- Continue a focus on economic development and manufacturing

Reminder: Friday, April 8th Executive Board Meeting, President's Conference Center West, Miller Senate Building

- Guest Speakers- Secretary Bartenfelder & Secretary Schulz
- Dan Rider will present on Transfer of Wealth Study
- MAERDAF Guidelines Reviewed
- Josh will report on Legislative Review

No other bills or business were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:24 pm

Next meeting: Monday, April 18th, 2016 at 3pm via conference call.