

RMC Legislative Committee
April 10, 2017
2pm-3pm
Conference Call
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Josh Hastings
Erroll Mattox
Mike Pennington
Bill Christopher
Joanne Richart-Young
Don Mulrine

RMC Staff:

Charlotte Davis, Executive Director
Meredith Donaho, Program Administrator

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

Review of March 27, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the March 27, 2017 Legislative Committee were reviewed. No recommendations were made. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Legislative Tracking

Several item requests for the Legislative Committee to review included:

- **SB 717/HB 1169 – Connecting Rural Maryland Act of 2017.** The legislation establishes the Task Force on Rural Internet, Broadband, Wireless, and Cellular Service. The 22-member task force, which includes four members of the Senate and four members of the House of Delegates, must study and make recommendations regarding how Western Maryland counties; Southern Maryland counties; Eastern Shore counties; and Frederick, Carroll, and Harford counties can work together to obtain federal assistance to improve internet, broadband, wireless, and cellular services and accessibility in the affected counties. By November 30, 2017, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. Rural Maryland Council Executive Director, Charlotte Davis, has been named as the Chair of the task force. The bill has passed. More information on the task force will be made available soon.
- **SB 1196 – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Financing Purchase or Lease of Property - Exemption From Procurement Law.** The bill was discussed for informational purposes.
- **SB 273 - State Forest, State Park, and Wildlife Management Area Revenue Equity Program.** The bill has passed but has been amended to reduce eligible counties to participate in the program to three, including Garrett, Allegany and Somerset Counties.
- **SB 851/HB1350 - Public Service Commission - Application for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - Consistency With Comprehensive Plan.** The bill has passed. The bill has been amended to be used as a vehicle to support the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) bill concerning renewable energy on open land.
- **HB 1283 – Alcoholic Beverages – Class 5 Brewery License.** The bill was discussed for informational purposes, it has been passed.

Other Updates

The 2017 Legislative Session Review will be made available for Committee members soon. An in-person Legislative Committee meeting is expected to be scheduled in June or July for members to discuss

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activities for the interim and issues for the 2018 Legislative Session. It is expected that legislation pertaining to AirBnB and short-term rentals will be re-introduced next session.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:24 pm.

Next meeting: TBD