

RMC Legislative Committee
Monday, January 15, 2018
3:00pm-4:00pm
Conference Call
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Odette Ramos, Co-Chair
Lindsay Thompson, Co-Chair
Bill Christopher
Kim Kratovil
Erroll Mattox
Steve McHenry
Alice Settle-Raskin
Scott Warner
Matthew Tefteau
Kurt Fuchs
Kelly Dudeck
Senator Adelaide Eckardt
Mike Pennington

RMC Staff:

Charlotte Davis, Executive Director
Meredith Donaho, Program Administrator
Amanda Clevenger, Administrative Assistant

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

Minutes

The meeting minutes from the December 11, 2017 Legislative Committee were shared. Co-Chair Lindsay Thompson requested changes to the minutes. No requests for changes were made. The December 11, 2017 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

2018 Legislative Tracking

- HB 7 – Income Tax Credit – Venison Donation – Feed the Hungry Organizations: This bill will allow an individual to claim a credit against the State income tax for certain qualified expenses if the individual harvests an antlerless deer and donates the deer meat to certain organizations. The bill will also require the Comptroller to report to the General Assembly on the effectiveness of the tax credit, including the number of deer donated under the program and the total cost of the tax credit; in addition, the Act would apply to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017, but before January 1, 2023, and terminate after June 30, 2023. A copy of a letter of support was shared with the Committee. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may submit a letter of information; the Council will defer to submit the letter of support until more information is received by the administration.

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- HB 43 – Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Perpetual Conservation Easement: This bill creates a State income tax subtraction modification for the compensation received by an individual in exchange for the sale of a perpetual conservation easement on real property located in the State. The amount of the subtraction modification may not exceed \$100,000.00. This bill will apply to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017. Similar legislation has been supported in the past. A letter of support was provided for review by the Committee. The Council will submit the letter of support by the bill hearing date.
- HB 109 – Community Development Program Act of 2018: This bill will establish the Community Development Program in the Department of Housing and Community Development and require the Department to administer the Program. The bill will also establish the Community Development Board in the Department and establish the Community Development Fund to provide financial assistance to community development projects and community development organizations around the State. The Committee agreed to provide written support, and Charlotte Davis has agreed to testify in support of the bill.
- SB 153 – Income Tax Credit – Oyster Shell Recycling – Sunset Extension: This bill will extend the termination date of a tax credit allowed for recycling oyster shells from June 30, 2018, to June 30, 2023. Written support will be drafted and submitted.
- SB 154 – Transportation – Highway User Revenues – Phased Restoration: This bill will increase the portion of highway user revenues that is distributed to local governments. The bill will also alter the allocation of the local share of highway user revenues among Baltimore City, counties, and municipalities. The Committee agreed to support all HUR restoration bills introduced in the session. Written support will be drafted and submitted.

Other Updates

Suggestions were made for the Committee to consider supporting legislation that will be introduced that will involve a tax credit for airplane parts and maintenance. The bill will impact rural areas and will be sponsored by Senator Eckardt and Senator Waugh.

The Rural Maryland Council will host its Legislative Luncheon and Executive Board meeting on Friday, January 26, 2018 in the President's Conference Center West, Miller Senate Building in Annapolis. The Rural Maryland Council will also partner with the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts for Rural Maryland Day on Thursday, February 8, 2018.

With no other updates, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:21 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, January 29, 2018, 3pm -4pm, Conference Call.