

RMC Legislative Committee  
Monday, January 29, 2018  
3:00pm-4:00pm  
Conference Call  
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Lindsay Thompson, Co-Chair	Josh Bollinger
Bill Christopher	John Hartline
Bob Zimberoff	Erroll Mattox
Melissa Kelly	Scott Warner
Kim Kratovil	Steve McHenry
Senator Adelaide Eckardt	Matt Teffeau
Josh Hastings	Nancy Nunn
Mike Pennington	Alice Settle-Raskin

RMC Staff:

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

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:02 pm.

Minutes

The meeting minutes from the January 15, 2018 Legislative Committee were shared. Co-Chair Lindsay Thompson requested changes to the minutes. No requests for changes were made. The December 15, 2017 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

2018 Legislative Tracking

- HB243 - Task Force on Rural Internet, Broadband, Wireless, and Cellular Service - Study and Extension. This bill requires the Task Force on Rural, Internet, Broadband, Wireless, and Cellular Service, in conducting a certain study, to solicit input from local governments and Internet service providers on identifying unserved and underserved areas in Western Maryland counties, Southern Maryland counties, Eastern Shore counties, and Frederick, Carroll, and Harford counties. The bill also extends the date by which the Task Force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly to November 30, 2018. The bill hearing is set for Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. Charlotte Davis will testify and written testimony will be submitted.
- HB318/SB212 – Sales and Use Tax – Aircraft Parts and Equipment – Exemption. This bill provides an exemption from the sales and use tax for materials, parts, or equipment used to repair, maintain, or upgrade aircraft or the avionics systems of aircraft if the materials, parts, or equipment are installed on the aircraft. It will provide economic impact on rural regional airports, such as Salisbury and Hagerstown. The Committee agreed to submit support testimony.

- HB361/SB314 – Bay Restoration Fund – Fee Exemption, Disbursements, and Financial Assistance (Septic Stewardship Act of 2018). This bill exempts a user of an on-site sewage disposal system from paying the Bay Restoration Fee under certain circumstances and authorizes certain fee revenue collected for the Bay Restoration Fund to be used for financial assistance to certain homeowners for the reasonable cost of pumping out on-site sewage disposal systems. The bill also specifies that financial assistance under the Act may be provided only if the homeowner resides in a local jurisdiction that has developed a certain plan that meets certain conditions. The Committee agreed to continue monitoring the bill.
- HB363/SB305 – More Jobs for Marylanders Act 2.0. This bill alters the definition of "qualified distressed county" by altering certain income levels in the definition and renaming it to be "Tier I county", and alters the scope of eligible projects for which a business entity may apply to enroll in the More Jobs for Marylanders Program and alters the types of businesses authorized to receive certain credits and benefits under the Program. This bill would capture manufacturing and may help rural manufacturers. The Committee agreed to submit written support testimony.
- HB458 – Environment – Sale or Transfer of Home With On-Site Sewage Disposal System – Nitrogen Removal Technology Requirement. This bill requires a homeowner of a certain home located in the State in the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area to ensure the home's on-site sewage disposal system utilizes or will be upgraded to utilize nitrogen removal technology before the home is sold or transferred. The Committee agreed to continue monitoring the bill.
- HB526 – Income Tax – Angel Investor Tax Credit Program. This bill creates 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 qualified investment, not to exceed \$50,000 for an individual or \$100,000 for married couples that file a joint return or a pass-through entity. The Committee agreed to submit written support testimony. The bill will be cross-filed with an amendment that will allow a special designation for rural counties.
- SB223 – Transportation – Highway User Revenues – Allocation. This bill would gradually redistribute funds from the Gasoline and Motor Vehicle Revenue Account (GMVRA) to local jurisdictions after any fiscal year when actual Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) revenue exceeds the Board of Revenue Estimate (BRE) for that fiscal year. The Committee agreed to submit written support testimony.

#### Other Legislation

- SB266 - Maryland Health Care Commission – Mortality Rates of African American Infants and Infants in Rural Areas – Study. The bill requires the Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and interested stakeholders, to conduct a study on the mortality rates of African American infants and infants in rural areas. The Committee will continue to monitor.
- HB490/SB163 - Public Health - Community Health Workers - Advisory Committee and Certification. This bill requires the Advisory Committee to advise the Maryland Department of

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Health on certain matters relating to the certification and training of community health workers.  
The Committee will continue to monitor.

Other Updates

The Rural Maryland Council will also partner with the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts for Rural Maryland Day on Thursday, February 8, 2018. The Taste of the Eastern Shore will also be scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup> at the Loews Annapolis Hotel, 5pm – 10pm.

With no other updates, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:31 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, February 5, 2018, 3pm -4pm, Conference Call.