

RMC Legislative Committee
Monday, February 5, 2018
3:00pm-4:00pm
Conference Call
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Odette Ramos, Co-Chair
Bill Christopher
Bob Zimmeroff
Shannon Reed
Erroll Mattox
John Hartline
Scott Warner

Lara Wilson
Mike Pennington
Alice Settle-Raskin
Steve McHenry
Josh Hastings
Kimberly Kratovil

RMC Staff:

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

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:06 pm.

Minutes

The meeting minutes from the January 29, 2018 Legislative Committee were shared. Co-Chair Odette Ramos requested changes to the minutes. No requests for changes were made. The January 29, 2018 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

2018 Legislative Tracking

- HB303 - Housing and Community Development - Neighborhood and Community Assistance Program Tax Credit - Maximum Contributions. This bill increases from \$3,500,000 to \$6,000,000 the maximum sum of contributions for certain projects under the Neighborhood and Community Assistance Program that are eligible for the Neighborhood and Community Assistance Program tax credit. A copy of the written support testimony was provided for the Committee. Co-Chair Odette Ramos requested the Committee to review the testimony and requested changes or suggestions. No requests for changes were made. The support testimony will be submitted.

Other Legislation

- HB 243 - Task Force on Rural Internet, Broadband, Wireless, and Cellular Service - Study and Extension. The bill was heard before the Economic Matters Committee on February 1, 2018. There were requests for the bill to be amended to include certain groups as additional members to the Task Force, including Fire and Rescue. The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) testified that they would like the bill amended to be expanded to all counties. More updates on the bill will be provided at the next meeting.

RMC Legislative Committee
Minutes – February 5, 2018 Meeting

- HB 773/SB689 - Electricity - Condemnation of Property or Rights for Overhead Transmission Lines - Public Service Commission Approval;
HB784 - Electric Facilities - Construction of Overhead Transmission Lines - Repeal of Condemnation Authority, Location, and Workgroup;
HB794/SB692 - Public Service Commission - Construction of Overhead Transmission Lines – Location;
HB812/SB691 - Electric Facilities - Condemnation - Conserved Land;
HB869/SB696 – Construction of Transmission Lines – Landowners – Notification and Compensation.

These bills regard construction of overhead transmission lines and certain property or rights by condemnation. The Council has been reached out to by farmers in Harford County regarding land that is being taken for the construction of transmission lands. The Committee will continue to monitor these bills, and will seek information for why the bills are separate and not combined.

Other Updates

Draft copies of the talking points and legislator meetings schedule were provided to the Committee. A debrief call will be held on February 7th, 3:30pm -4:30pm, for Rural Maryland Day participants to receive information and ask questions. The main talking point with legislators is to encourage support for the \$6 million included in the FY19 budget for the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF), and to reject the Department of Legislative Service’s proposed cut of \$2.5 million. The Rural Maryland Council will partner with the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts for the Rural Maryland Day luncheon. The Taste of the Eastern Shore will also be scheduled for February 8th at the Loews Annapolis Hotel, 5pm – 10pm.

With no other updates, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, February 19, 2018, 3pm -4pm, Conference Call.