

RMC Legislative Committee
Monday, January 28, 2019
3:00pm-4:00pm
Conference Call
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Odette Ramos, Co-Chair	Janice Palmer
Bill Christopher	Lenny Pfeffer
Kelly Dudeck	Alice Settle-Raskin
Senator Adelaide Eckardt	Cassie Shirk
John Hartline	Scott Warner
Steve McHenry	Lara Wilson
Don Mulrine	Jennifer Witten
Greg Padgham	

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 14, 2019 Legislative Committee were shared. Co-Chair Odette Ramos requested changes and approval of the minutes. No changes were requested. The meeting minutes from January 14, 2019 were unanimously accepted.

Legislative Tracking

Copies of the legislative tracking as of January 28, 2018 were shared. The following legislation was discussed for consideration:

- a. HB47 - State Department of Education and Maryland Department of Health - Maryland School-Based Health Center Standards – Revision. The bill requires the State Department of Education and the Maryland Department of Health to revise the Maryland School-Based Health Center Standards to repeal the requirements that a school-based health center have a medical director who is a physician and have a physician consultant who is available to discuss clinical issues as needed and to authorize a licensed physician or nurse practitioner to serve as a clinical director or clinical consultant of a school-based health center. **A recommendation was made to provide a letter of support.**
- b. HB204 - Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Employee-Owned Businesses. The bill allows a tax credit under the State income tax for income from a qualified transfer of stock or membership interest of a Maryland corporation or limited liability company to certain employee ownership entities. There were concerns

regarding a minor fiscal impact, and concerns expressed by the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo). A motion was made by Don Mulrine to provide a letter of support, the motion was seconded by Senator Adelaide Eckardt. **The motion was unanimously approved, a letter of support will be submitted.**

- c. HB255 – Public Schools – Agricultural Education Programs. The bill encourages each county board of education to implement an agricultural education program that prepares students for successful careers in agriculture. There will be no fiscal impact. **A letter of support will be drafted and submitted.**
- d. SB34 - Tourist Area and Corridor Program and Task Force on Attraction Signs. The bill establishes the Tourist Area and Corridor Program in the State Highway Administration to develop a system of supplemental guide signs that direct motorists to eligible attractions within a geographical area. A recommendation was made to continue monitoring the bill.
- e. SB133 - Farm Area Motor Vehicles - Registration and Authorized Use. The bill repeals the the termination date for certain provisions of law applicable to the registration and authorized use of farm area motor vehicles, including a provision increasing from 10 miles to 25 miles the radius from a farm within which a person may operate on a highway a motor vehicle registered as a farm area motor vehicle; and requiring the owner of a farm area motor vehicle to submit a certain application and documentation for registration of the vehicle. A recommendation was made to continue monitoring.
- f. SB178 - Behavioral Health Programs - Medical Directors – Telehealth. The bill authorizes a medical director of a behavioral health program located in a federally designated health professional shortage area to provide services through telehealth. **A letter of support will be submitted.**
- g. SB218 – Summer SNAP for Children Act. A request to submit written support for the bill was received. The bill contains \$2million in mandated funding. It was recommended that the bill would continue to be monitored.
- h. SB243 - Small Business Development Center Network Fund - Minimum Appropriation. The bill alters the minimum required appropriation to the Small Business Development Center Network Fund at the University of Maryland, College Park Campus beginning with an appropriation of \$1,500,000 in fiscal year 2021 and increasing to \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter. A recommendation was made to continue monitoring the bill.
- i. SB259 - Cecil County - Special Taxing Districts - Broadband Internet Service. The bill authorizes Cecil County, for the purpose of providing broadband Internet service, to establish a special taxing district. A recommendation was made to continue monitoring the bill.

- j. SB262 - Earned Income Tax Credit - Individuals Without Qualifying Children - Calculation and Refundability. The bill alters the calculation of the Maryland earned income tax credit to allow certain individuals without qualifying children to claim an increased credit. Additional information regarding the fiscal impact provided by the Maryland Cash Campaign will be made available at the next meeting. The bill will continue to be monitored.
- k. SB263 - Earned Income Tax Credit - Individuals Without Qualifying Children - Eligibility and Refundability. The bill expands the eligibility of the Maryland earned income tax credit to allow certain individuals without qualifying children to claim the credit. Additional information regarding the fiscal impact provided by the Maryland Cash Campaign will be made available at the next meeting. The bill will continue to be monitored.

Other Legislation Discussed:

HB35 - Public Health - Opioid Maintenance Therapy Programs - Medical Director Requirement and Qualifications. The bill requires an opioid maintenance therapy program to have a medical director who is a physician and has 2 years of experience providing services to individuals who are addicted to alcohol or other drugs. A recommendation was made to continue to monitor the bill.

HB102 - Toll Roads, Highways, and Bridges - County Government Consent Requirement – Expansion. The bill expands to all counties in the State a prohibition on State agencies constructing within the nine Eastern Shore counties a toll road, toll highway, or toll bridge without the consent of a majority of the affected counties. A recommendation was made to continue to monitor the bill.

HB120 - Natural Resources - No Net Loss of Forest – Definition. The bill alters the standard for achieving a no net loss of forest policy by altering the definition of 'no net loss of forest' to mean that 40% of all land in Maryland is covered by forest land. A recommendation was made to continue to monitor the bill.

Rural Maryland Day

The RMC is currently working on developing talking points for Rural Maryland Day on February 14th, and setting up appointments with legislators in the morning. Key talking points were requested, a suggestion was made to discuss the opioid crisis and response. Rural Maryland Day talking points will be furthered discussed at the next meeting.

Updates

Funding for the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) was included in the FY2020 Administrative Budget at \$6million. It is expected that two bills regarding rural broadband expansion utilizing the Task Force for Rural Broadband recommendations will be introduced soon. Legislation regarding Angel Investment Tax Credits and Opportunity Zones is also expected to be introduced soon.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:50 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, February 11, 2019, 3pm-4pm, Conference Call