

RMC Legislative Committee
Monday, February 11, 2019
3:00pm-4:00pm
Conference Call
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Lindsay Thompson, Co-Chair
Odette Ramos, Co-Chair
Bill Christopher
Kelly Dudeck
Kurt Fuchs
Josh Hastings
Carol Masden
Steve McHenry

Don Mulrine
Nancy Nunn
Greg Padgham
Janice Palmer
Alice Settle-Raskin
Cassie Shirk
Scott Warner
Lara Wilson

RMC Staff:

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

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

Minutes

The meeting minutes from the January 28, 2019 Legislative Committee were shared. Co-Chairs Odette Ramos and Lindsay Thompson requested changes and approval of the minutes. No changes were requested. The meeting minutes from January 28, 2019 were unanimously accepted.

Legislative Tracking

Copies of the legislative tracking as of February 11, 2019 were shared. The following legislation was discussed for consideration:

- a. HB 474 – Joint Use of Utility and Telecommunications Infrastructure. This bill authorizes the initiation of a proceeding at the Public Service Commission regarding the joint use of utility and telecommunications infrastructure, and authorizes the Commission to order a joint use entity to allow joint use and reasonable compensation for joint use of certain infrastructure. The legislation is based on legislation passed in Maine. **The Committee agreed to provide written support testimony.**
- b. HB557/SB509 – Property Tax – In Rem Foreclosure and Sale – Vacant and Abandoned Property. This bill establishes procedures for counties and municipalities to authorize by law a process to initiate a judicial in rem foreclosure proceeding. **The Committee agreed to provide written support testimony.**

- c. HB654 – Wireless Facilities – Installation and Regulation. This bill establishes procedures and requirements for the deployment, installation, and regulation of small wireless facilities. **The Committee agreed to continue monitoring the bill.**
- d. HB1008 – Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation – Valuation of Easement. This bill authorizes the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation to use fair market value for easements. **The Committee agreed to continue to monitor.**
- e. HB1050 – Agriculture – Cost-Sharing Program – Sale of Harvested Cover Crops. The bill authorizes a person that plants barley, rye, or wheat cover crops as a certain best management practice to sell the harvested cover crop to a certain person that holds a certain alcoholic beverages license and will process the cover crop in the State. **The Committee agreed to continue to monitor.**
- f. HB1123 – Agriculture – Hemp Research and Production. This bill will establish a hemp farming program and fund. **The Committee agreed to provide written support testimony.**
- g. SB409 – Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Employee-Owned Businesses. This bill creates a subtraction modification against the State individual and corporate income tax for any income from a qualified transfer of stock or membership interest of a Maryland corporation or limited liability company (LLC). **The Committee agreed to provide written support testimony.**
- h. SB467/HB488 – Forestry – Mel Noland Fellowship Program – Establishment. This bill establishes the Mel Noland Fellowship Program within the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to support the professional development of individuals beginning a career in forestry management. **The Committee agreed to provide written support testimony.**
- i. SB471/HB652 - Agriculture - Use of Antimicrobial Drugs - Limitations and Reporting Requirements. This bill clarifies a certain prohibition on administering a medically important antimicrobial drug in a regular pattern to certain cattle, swine, or poultry. **The Committee agreed to continue monitoring, no stance.**
- j. SB483/HB84 – Maryland Farms and Families Fund – Purpose, Use, Funding and Grant Qualifications – Alteration. This bill alters the purpose of the Maryland Farms and Families Fund to expand to nonprofit organizations. **The Committee agreed to continue monitoring, no stance.**
- k. SB507 – Income Tax – Angel Investor Tax Credit. Allows for a credit against the State income tax for a certain percentage of an investment made in a qualified innovation business. **Committee agreed to provide support testimony.**
- l. SB524/HB 605 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Telemedicine - Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners. This bill requires psychiatric nurse practitioners who are

providing Assertive Community Treatment or mobile treatment services to certain Maryland Medical Assistance Program recipients in the types of providers eligible to receive reimbursement for health care services that are delivered through telemedicine and provided to Program recipients. **The Committee agreed to provide written support testimony.**

- m. SB 546/HB904 - Agriculture - Nutrient Management - Monitoring and Enforcement. This bill requires a person who holds a certain certificate or license to comply with certain reporting requirements and deadlines related to implementation of the Phosphorus Management Tool and the submission of certain soil test phosphorus levels. **The Committee agreed to continue monitoring, no stance.**
- n. SB557/HB660 - Public Health - Tick-Borne Disease Interagency Workgroup. This bill establishes the Tick-Borne Disease Interagency Workgroup. **The Committee agreed to provide written support testimony.**
- o. SB 581/HB1260 - Economic and Community Development Tax Credits - Opportunity Zone Enhancement Program. This bill expands certain economic development tax credits. **The Committee agreed to continue monitoring the bill, and review at the next meeting.**
- p. SB 628 - Economic Development - Maryland Tourism Development Board – Grants. This bill expands the requirement that the Maryland Tourism Development Board provide grants to certain tourism organizations by including nongovernmental tourism organizations as authorized recipients of grants from the Board. **The Committee agreed to continue to monitor.**
- q. SB632 - Housing - Community Development Program Act – Funding. This bill requires the Administrator of a certain abandoned property fund to distribute certain funds in excess of \$80 million to the Community Development Program Fund. **The Committee agreed to provide support testimony.**
- r. SB634 - Electric Cooperatives - Powers - Conducting or Communications Facilities. Authorizes an electric cooperative to construct, maintain, or operate or allow others to construct, maintain, or operate conducting or communications facilities for telecommunications and broadband Internet services along, on, under, or across various types of property. **The Committee agreed to provide support testimony.**
- s. SB656/HB1162 - Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit - Alterations - Opportunity Zones, Targeted Projects, and Transferability. Authorizes an additional 5% tax credit under the heritage structure rehabilitation tax credit program for certain commercial rehabilitations that qualify as opportunity zone projects. **More information needed, will continue to monitor.**
- t. SB663 - Commerce, Housing, and Community Development - Opportunity Zones. Authorizes the State to provide funding for certain growth-related projects not in a

priority funding area. **The Committee agreed to provide support testimony.**

- u. SB713/HB1020 - Wireless Facilities - Permitting and Siting. This bill establishes procedures and requirements for the permitting, installation, and regulation of wireless facilities. **The Committee agreed to provide support testimony.**
- v. SB720 - Real Property - Eminent Domain - Broadband Services. Establishes that damages be awarded for a certain taking of land or an interest in land subject to a utility easement where that easement is being used for providing broadband telecommunication services. **The Committee agreed to provide support testimony.**
- w. SB744/HB532 - Protecting Natural Resources and Preserving Productive Farms - Commission on the Development of a Blueprint for Solar Energy in Maryland. This bill establishes the Commission on the Development of a Blueprint for Solar Energy in Maryland. **The Committee agreed to provide support testimony.**
- x. SB756 - Community Development - Rural Maryland Opportunity Zone Fund. This bill establishes the Rural Maryland Opportunity Zone Fund as a special, non-lapsing fund. **Will continue to discuss at the next meeting, language amendments needed.**
- y. SB759/HB1163 - Income and Property Taxes - Qualified Maryland Opportunity Zone Investments. Allows a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for certain gains from the sale to, or an exchange with, a certain unrelated person of qualified Maryland opportunity zone property. **Committee agreed to continue to monitor.**

Other Legislation Discussed:

- SB516/HB1158 – Clean Energy Jobs
- SB533 – Sales and Use Tax – Limited Residential Lodging
- SB542 – Community Health Air Act
- SB573/HB650 – Energy Storage Pilot Project Act
- SB729/HB735 – Task Force on Forest Conservation in Maryland
- SB851 - Bay Restoration Fund - Authorized Uses, Mandatory Appropriation, and County Authority to Incur Indebtedness

The Committee agreed to continue monitoring these bills.

Rural Maryland Day

Copies of the talking points and materials were shared with the group. Copies of the support testimony for the Rural Maryland Council budget bill hearing on February 14th was also shared.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:13 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, February 25, 2019, 3pm-4pm, Conference Call