

RMC Legislative Committee  
Monday, February 25, 2019  
3:00pm-4:00pm  
Conference Call  
Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Lindsay Thompson, Co-Chair  
Henry Bogdan  
Josh Bollinger  
Debbie Bowden  
Bill Christopher  
Kelly Dudeck  
Kurt Fuchs

Steve McHenry  
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 3:02 pm.

Minutes

The meeting minutes from the February 11, 2019 Legislative Committee were shared. Co-Chair Lindsay Thompson requested changes and approval of the minutes. No changes were requested. The meeting minutes from February 11, 2019 were unanimously accepted.

Legislative Tracking

Copies of the legislative tracking as of February 25, 2019 were shared. The following legislation was discussed for consideration:

- a. HB1086 - Apprenticeship Maryland - Establishment, Requirements, and Report. This bill establishes an apprenticeship program called Apprenticeship Maryland; provides for the purpose of the Program; requires the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation and a certain entity, to select certain local school systems to participate in the Program; and, requires the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation to select certain participating employers. **The Committee agreed to provide written support testimony, unless feedback from the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations advises otherwise.**
- b. HB1172/SB680 - Economic Development - Regional Advanced Manufacturing Partnership of Maryland. This bill renames and expands the purposes of and potential funding sources for the Regional Additive Manufacturing Partnership of Maryland (RAMP MD). Specifically, the partnership is renamed the Regional

Advanced Manufacturing Partnership, reflecting an expansion from solely additive manufacturing, and the “region” for purposes of the partnership is expanded from Cecil and Harford counties to include any participating political subdivision in the State. State and local funding provisions and membership on RAMP MD’s executive board are also changed, as specified. **The Committee agreed to provide written support testimony.**

- c. HB1290/SB583 – Income Tax – Affordable Housing Credit. This bill allows certain owners of qualified developments of low income housing to claim a credit against the State income tax; prohibits a credit in a taxable year from exceeding the owner's State income tax for the taxable year; prohibits credits claimed by owners of a pass-through entity from exceeding a certain amount; allows unused credits to be claimed in subsequent taxable years under certain circumstances; and, requires the Secretary of Housing and Community Development to approve certain applications. **The Committee agreed to continue to monitor.**
- d. HB1309/SB876 – Aquaculture – Leases in Water Column – Riparian Right of First Refusal. This bill establishes that a riparian property owner or lessee shall have the right of first refusal to apply for and, if approved, obtain a water column lease, or an aquaculture lease for use in the water column in an Aquaculture Enterprise Zone, in an area that fronts the riparian property, subject to certain standards and requirements. **The Committee agreed to continue to monitor.**
- e. HB1340 - Task Force to Study the Local Economic Impact of Bank Deserts in Maryland. This bill establishes the Task Force to Study the Local Economic Impact of Bank Deserts in Maryland. The bill is primarily focused on urban/suburban areas. **The Committee to provide written support if the bill moves, and to request rural representation.**
- f. HB1350 – Property Tax Assessments – Conservation Property – Altering the Definition. This bill expands the definition of "conservation property" for property tax assessment purposes to include land subject to a perpetual conservation easement, including an easement sold to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, donated to the Maryland Environmental Trust, or sold or donated under another public or private conservation or preservation program. **The Committee agreed to continue monitoring the bill.**
- g. HB1353 – Agriculture – Nuisance Insects. This bill authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to implement, under certain circumstances, a program to control or eliminate nuisance insects in the State; authorizes the Secretary to carry out a certain project to control or eliminate nuisance insects if the county or municipality in which the nuisance insects are located agrees to pay 50% of the costs associated with the project; and, establishes the Nuisance Insects Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund. **The Committee agreed to provide written support testimony if the bill received a hearing date.**

- h. SB174/HB150 – More Opportunities for Marylanders Act 2019. This Administration bill extends the More Jobs for Marylanders Program by 10 years, through May 2030, and increases the total amount of 10-year tax credit certificates that may be awarded annually under the program from \$10.0 million to \$15.0 million. The bill also expands geographic eligibility for Tier I benefits to Opportunity Zones and expands eligible business activities beyond manufacturing for businesses located in Opportunity Zones. **The Committee agreed to provide written support testimony.**
- i. SB277/HB688 - Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Businesses Account – Funding. This bill requires that 1.5% of the proceeds of video lottery terminals at certain video lottery facilities be paid to the Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Businesses Account (SMWOBA). This bill repeals the requirement that for fiscal 2020 certain proceeds from video lottery terminals (VLTs) be distributed to the Education Trust Fund (ETF) instead of the Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Businesses Account (SMWOBA). The bill also repeals the requirement that up to 5%, not to exceed \$1.0 million, of the amount to be distributed to SMWOBA beginning in fiscal 2021 be instead distributed to the Nonprofit, Interest-Free, Micro Bridge Loan (NIMBL) account. **The Committee agreed to provide a written letter of support.**
- j. SB 581/HB1260 - Economic and Community Development Tax Credits - Opportunity Zone Enhancement Program. This bill establishes the Opportunity Zone Enhancement Program, to be administered by the Department of Commerce (Commerce). Qualifying businesses with an opportunity zone may qualify for enhanced incentives under the following tax credit programs (1) job creation; (2) One Maryland; (3) enterprise zone; (4) biotechnology investment incentive; (5) cybersecurity investment incentive; (6) More Jobs for Marylanders; and (7) Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise Zone (RISE). In addition, the bill provides enhanced commercial and small commercial heritage structure rehabilitation tax credits. Commerce and the Maryland Historical Trust must adopt regulations implementing the bill. **The Committee agreed to defer a position, and continue to monitor.**
- k. SB642/HB923 – Task Force to Study Transportation Access. This bill establishes a Task Force to Study Transportation Access. The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) must provide staff for the task force. The task force must submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by June 30, 2020. A final report is due by December 1, 2021. **The Committee agreed to provide written support testimony.**
- l. SB756 - Community Development - Rural Maryland Opportunity Zone Fund. This bill establishes the Rural Maryland Opportunity Zone Fund as a special, non-lapsing fund. **The Committee agreed to provide written support with amendments.**
- m. SB850 – Sales and Use Tax – Exemption – Qualified Computer Technology. This bill exempts from the sales and use tax certain sales of qualified computer technology for use at a qualified data center under certain circumstances; requires an

individual or a corporation to apply for a certain certificate of eligibility in order to qualify for the exemption; and, provides for the renewal of a certain certificate.  
**The Committee agreed to provide written support testimony.**

- n. SB922/HB815 – Agriculture – Milk and Milk-Based Products – Labeling. This bill will prohibit a person from selling, offering for sale, or advertising a product labeled as milk or a milk-based product if the product is not derived from a cow or another animal. **The Committee agreed to provide written support testimony.**
- o. SB944 – Behavioral Health Programs – Medical Directors – Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners. This bill requires that regulations adopted under certain provisions of law regulating behavioral health programs include provisions authorizing a psychiatric nurse practitioner to serve as a medical director of a behavioral health program, including through telehealth, if the program is located in a federally designated health professional shortage area or the medical director abandoned the program and the program has no psychiatrist to serve as medical director. **The Committee agreed to provide written support testimony if a hearing date is set.**
- p. SB978 – Real Property – Agricultural Land Preservation Easements – Separate Parcels. This bill extends the termination date to June 30, 2021, for certain provisions establishing that, unless a deed expressly provides otherwise, the grant of a certain agricultural land preservation easement governing certain parcels of land does not consolidate the parcels for any other purpose, and that a certain parcel subject to a certain easement may be conveyed separately to a certain child with certain approval of the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, but remains subject to the easement in perpetuity. **The Committee agreed to continue monitoring the bill.**
- q. SB993/HB783 – Task Force to Study Behavioral and Mental Health in Maryland. This bill establishes the Task Force to Study Behavioral and Mental Health in Maryland. **The Committee agreed to provide written support testimony.**
- r. SB997/HB1227 – Public Utilities – Wind and Solar Generating Stations – Local Zoning and Land Use. This bill prohibits the Public Service Commission from taking final action on an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity for a wind or solar generating station until a county or municipal corporation in which any part of the generating station is proposed to be located has completed a certain review; and, repeals the requirement that the Commission give due consideration to certain recommendations before taking final action on a certificate of public convenience and necessity for a certain wind or solar generating station. **The Committee agreed to provide written support testimony.**

Rural Maryland Day

Co-chair Lindsay Thompson thanked everyone for participating in Rural Maryland Day.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:35 pm. Next meeting: Monday, March 4, 2019, 3pm-4pm, Conference