



RMC Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 6, 2020

Time: 2:00pm to 3:00pm

Type: Conference Call

Participants: Lindsay Thompson, Senator Addie Eckardt, Amanda Clevenger, Charlotte Davis, Scott Warner, Steve McHenry, Alice Settle-Raskin, John Hartline, Commissioner Wilbur Levensgood, Roger Wilson, Joy Schaefer, Mike Thielke, Kelly Dudeck, Jim Massey, Janice Palmer, Greg Padgham, Delegate Mike McKay, Matt Tefteau, Susan O'Neill, Bill Christopher, Kim Kratovil, Kurt Fuchs, Don Mulrine, Cassie Shirk and Megan D'Arcy

The meeting convene at 2:10pm after some technical difficulties with the conference line.

RMC Legislative Committee Co-Chair, Lindsay Thompson welcomed everyone onto the call and Charlotte Davis, RMC Executive Director asked for participants to state their names to record. Lindsay asked Senator Eckhardt if the final committee assignments were made public and the Senator replied that she did not know at the time of the call.

Minutes

The Meeting minutes from the 10/28/2019 meeting were not prepared to be reviewed. These will be approved during the next meeting, scheduled for 1/27/2019 at 2:00pm.

2020 Legislative Priorities

The draft 2020 Legislative Priorities were discussed. Charlotte Davis stated that they would be of similar format and content from previous years and will include an outlook statement. There is projected to be a fund balance of \$500 million. The structural deficit is projected to increase over the years. The State received a bit more money than anticipated and the fenced funds from FY2020 have not been released. The top priority will be to fund the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPPIF) for \$6 million. Mr. Warner, Mr. Hartline and Ms. Davis met with the Secretary of Budget & Management, David Brinkley and the Chair of Appropriations and they state there were no issues with the request. A meeting has been requested with Senator Guy Guzzone which will likely happen during the legislative session.

Legislative Tracking

Senator Eckhardt discussed the need for HB16-the exemption of sales and use tax on aircraft parts and equipment at regional airports. It was stated that Delegate Chris Adams revised a fiscal note and placed a limit on the amount. The Senator stated that this will be a major issue for UMES career tracking program. A similar bill was introduced last year and the committee would continue to support. RMC will submit a position statement.

Additional bill related topics discussed were the following: opportunity zones; vehicle license plates for hunger relief, Chesapeake Bay traffic study; statewide bill on use of golf carts; MDA bill; Alcohol bill. As

of the date of the meeting 56 bills had been pre-filed and there were currently 120 bills. Lindsay asked that any pre-filed bills be shared with the committee.

MDA budget items were discussed and the positive meeting with Secretary Brinkley and the House Committee Chair was restated.

Legislative tracking process moving forward-Charlotte will send out the bill tracker. The committee will follow it and decide if they want to submit a letter of support during designated meeting times. If attention is needed in the interim, the process will be to send an email and ask for feedback. Lastly, Lindsay stated that the committee is looking for a co-chair for the community development/economic work.

Other items reviewed were the upcoming RMC events that include the Welcome Breakfast (1/17/2020); Legislative Lunch (1/31/2020); and Rural Maryland Day (2/4/2020). Charlotte reported that the planning for these events were on schedule. It was noted that the next Committee Meeting call would take place on 1/27/2020 as the original date chosen was 1/20/2020, Martin Luther King Day and state offices would be closed.

Lindsay Thompson requested an adjournment of the Legislative Committee Meeting at approximately 3:00pm and a motion was made, seconded, and adjournment was unanimous.

Next meeting: Monday January 27, 2020 at 2:00pm via conference call.