



## RMC Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 23, 2020

Time: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Type: Teleconference

Participants: Kurt Fuchs, Don Mulrine, Chris Benzing, Josh Bollinger, Nancy Nunn, Susan O'Neill, Scott Warner, Lindsay Thompson, Kimberly Kratovil, Alice Settle-Raskin, Matt Teffeau, Bill Christopher, John Hartline, Senator Addie Eckardt; Greg Padgham, Jamie Williams, Benjamin Callahan, Delegate Mike McKay, Cassie Shirk, Janice Palmer, Steve McHenry, Charlotte Davis, Amanda Clevenger, and Megan D'Arcy.

### Welcome and Introductions

The meeting convened at 2:07pm. The Rural Maryland Co-Chair, Lindsay Thompson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Thompson informed the participants that session ended early on March 18, 2020 due to the concerns related to the coronavirus.

### Review of March 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Thompson asked participants if there any additions or corrections to the 3/9/2020 minutes. There were no comments. A motion of approval was requested, and Steve McHenry approved, John Hartline seconded. Motion was passed unanimously to adopt the 3/9/2020 minutes.

### Legislative Tracking

Charlotte Davis reported that even in the sessions truncated form, we had good results and provided a summary of bills that passed and two the Committee supported but were vetoed. Ms. Davis was asked to add HB0732 (Taxation-Tobacco Tax, Sales and Use Tax, Digital Advertising Gross Revenues Tax) to the tracking list.

- Tax Relief with the passage of an exemption on sales and use taxes on aircraft parts and equipment (HB16/SB121 Sponsors: Senator Addie Eckardt, Delegate Chris Adams) and an exemption for data centers on sales and use taxes and personal property taxes (HB1339/SB397 Sponsors: Delegate Jay Jacobs, Senator Steve Hershey)
- Expansion of telehealth with the creation of a mental health coverage pilot program (SB502 Sponsors: Senator Steve Hershey and Bill Ferguson)
- Expansion of the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program (HB998/SB501 Sponsors: Senator Steve Hershey, Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes)
- Expansion of broadband services (HB999/SB540 Sponsors: Senator Steve Hershey, Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes)
- Expansion of water resources for municipal governments (HB1035/SB495 Sponsors: Delegate Chris Adams, Senator Addie Eckardt)
- Passed but Vetoed: Inclusion of Agriculture Education as a priority in career and technical education. (HB1300/SB1000 Sponsors: Speaker Jones, President Ferguson)
- Passed but Vetoed: Development of agricultural markets with the creation of a Local Farm Enterprise Program (HB1488/SB985 Sponsors: Delegate Lorig Charkoudian, Senator Katie Fry Hester)

### Other

Ms. Davis asked participants if there were any additional items for discussion. Delegate McKay stated that the plan is to bring the legislators back to Annapolis for a one-week for a special session, but this may be difficult. Senator Eckardt stated that the small businesses disparity grants passed and participants discussed what would qualify for this program. Ms. Davis stated the Governor's most recent announcement to close all nonessential business and participants wanted to know how this would impact agriculture and forestry. Cassie Shirk stated she had a list she would forward to Lindsay to share with the group. Matt Teffeau stated that Choptank Electric will suspend and waive all late fees. Steve McHenry reported the Department of Commerce will be delivering a \$175 million to assist small businesses and nonprofit organizations impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. He informed participants that the seafood and agriculture industries have been hit very hard due to restaurants closing.

### Adjourn

Ms. Davis adjourned the meeting at 2:34pm.

**Next Meeting: TBD**