



RMC Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 9, 2020

Time: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Type: Conference Call

Participants: Charlotte Davis, Lindsay Thompson, Chris Benzing, John Hartline, Kurt Fuch, Colin Dennis with Senator Eckhardt's Office, Josh Bollinger, Debbie Bowden, Susan O'Neil, Bill Christopher, Wilbur Levensgood, Megan D'Arcy, Susan Harrison, Jamie Williams, Kimberly Kratovil, Alice Settle-Raskin, Steve McHenry, Ryan Snow, Andrew Cassilly, Greg Padghm, Cassie Shirk.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting convened at 2pm. The Rural Maryland Co-Chair, Lindsay Thompson was not available for the first part of the meeting. Charlotte Davis starting the meeting by welcoming everyone and taking roll call.

Review of February 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Charlotte asked participants if there were any additions or corrections to the 2/24/20 minutes. There were no comments. A motion of approval was requested, Wilbur Levensgood approved, and John Hartline seconded. All were in favor. Minutes were adopted.

Legislative Tracking

Charlotte Davis stated that there were no new bills and reviewed the status of the following Legislative Committee supported bill with participants. She stated that courtesy day is tomorrow, and cross over next week.

- SB0190 Budget Bill: Charlotte stated that the operating budget was moving and will be presented on the floor today. The Governor included two PINs for RMC staff in the supplemental budget. RMC staff expressed gratitude towards Governor Hogan for these PINs.
- HB1354-Sales and Use Tax and Personal Property Tax – Services, Aircraft Parts and Equipment, and Data Centers is also moving along. This bill incorporates SB0121 sales and use tax for aircraft parts and equipment and SB0397 Data Centers. A concern was raised by participants that this bill could hurt small business, those supplying the luxury services. Publicly we will not see the committee amendments until they are read across the desk.
- Kirwan Commission Plan: Ms. Davis stated there is a small revenue package trying to fund Kirwan. The House passed the bill but did cut some counties. Baltimore, Caroline and Prince George received some relief for the first five to six bills. Lindsay Thompson stated that it is still a concern with some counties, especially Talbot County. Lindsay plans to check with MACO and learn what chart Delegate Johnny Mautz displayed during session. Wilbur Levensgood expressed concern as well. HB1487 Public Schools - Agricultural Education and Grant Programs was partially incorporated into Kirwan, with the term "shall", we are waiting to see what's happening on the Senate bill.

- SB 501, Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants - Administration and Funding has been reported favorably with amendments.
- HB1035, Bay Restoration Fund – Use of Funds – Municipal Wastewater Facilities has been expanded to include municipal waste projects.
- HB1539, Grant Applications and Reporting - Uniform Forms and Requirements Grants bill has been turned into a workgroup;
- SB597, Agriculture - Cost-Sharing Program - Fixed Natural Filter Practices-natural fix practices. Removed bay restoration funding
- HB0263, Real Property - Sales of Mobile Home Parks - Notice Requirements will get to judicial proceedings and there will be a hearing next week.
- HB1508, Information Technology - Communications Lines – Installation, Charlotte Davis testified. She stated that the challenge with DoIT is that if the companies must pay for rights to ROW, it's shifting from one pot to another. This bill waives fee if provider is providing last mile. Charlotte will send follow-up email.
- SB985, Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program and Certified Local Farm Enterprise Food Aggregation Grant Fund – Establishment, Steve McHenry reported that this bill contains a 20% state procurement goal, funds 2 positions with MDA, unfunded fund to support aggregations. Passed out of Senate. Funding from MARBIDCO on the floor this evening. House hearing is tomorrow.
- HB1534, Department of Agriculture - Urban Agriculture Grant Program, Ms. Davis stated that the identified funding source was pulled and she wasn't sure the bill status without funding. The bill seeks five million and Lindsay said that she would talk to the sponsor, Delegate Wells tomorrow, 3/10.
- SB964, Agriculture - Hemp Research and Production – Prohibitions, Lindsay Thompson reported that this bill received an unfavorable report and that no action was taken in the house. The Senate committee killed the 2-mile required buffer in the bill but it's not completely dead. She will continue to monitor it.
- SB0300, Pesticides - Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition, Ms. Thompson stated that the Governor is requesting a regulatory solution.
- SB926, Environment – Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Construction or Expansion – Manure Transport Plan Requirement, Ms. Thompson stated that Senator Pinsky withdrew the bill.
- SB0540, Member-Regulated Cooperatives - Establishment (Rural Broadband for the Eastern Shore Act of 2020), both the House and Senate have been heard, Senate chair directed to get issues on the table and work it out. House meeting was a little tense.

Other

No additional business to be discussed.

Adjourn

Charlotte requested an adjournment of the meeting at 2:43pm and a motion was made, seconded. Adjournment was unanimous.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 23, 2020, 2pm-3pm, Conference Call