



RMC Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 11, 2021

Time: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Type: Teleconference (Meeting Materials Provide by Email)

Participants: Lindsay Thompson, Chris Benzing, Charlotte Davis, Don Mulrine, Cassie Shirk, John Venditta, Tony Thakur, Lara Wilson, Alice Settle-Raskin, Susanne Zilberfarb, Dakota Matthews, Matt Tefteau, Kelly Dudeck, Lindsay Thompson, Steve McHenry, John Hartline, Lenny Pfeffer, Harry Huntley, Delegate Mike McKay, Nancy Palmer, Senator Addie Eckardt, Janice Palmer, Scott Warner, Kimberly Kratovil, Janice Palmer, Mike Thielke, Amanda Cleveger, Megan D'Arcy

Welcome and Introductions

Lindsay Thompson, Co-chair welcomed participants to the call at 2:02pm and completed the roll call.

Minutes

Ms. Thompson asked if there were any objections to the March 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes. There were no objections.

2021 Legislative Priorities

Charlotte Davis presented the 2021 legislative priorities. Ms. Davis stated that the format was similar to previous years and reviewed the priorities with the participants. Ms. Thompson asked if there were any comments. Chris Benzing asked that the priorities emphasize broadband expansion and the need for it. Mike Thielke stated that he would like to see the rural economic piece expanded and volunteered to share additional text with Ms. Davis. Steve McHenry stated that the total amount for MARBIDCO needs to change from 2.875 to 2.735 million as they are down \$140 thousand. Ms. Thompson asked what the plan was to distribute the priorities. Ms. Davis stated that it will be presented to the Executive Board on January 29th for adoption and the committee felt that it should be made available sooner. Charlotte stated that she will present it to the Executive Committee on 1/25 and to send any questions or comments to Charlotte by Thursday, 1/24.

2021 Bill Tracking

Ms. Thompson introduced the 2021 bill tracking sheet and reviewed its format that designates those bills that the committee will either be supporting or monitoring. Bills discussed included the following:

- HB8-Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund – Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative – Use of Proceeds for Maryland Health Soil Program, 1/14 at 1:30pm
- HB269- Department of Agriculture – Urban Agriculture Grant Program, 1/15 at 1:00pm
- SB92- Income Tax - Credits for Preceptors in Areas With Health Care Workforce Shortages - Eligibility and Sunset Repeal, 1/21 at 11:00am

- SB102- Income Tax - Credits for Preceptors in Areas With Health Care Workforce Shortages, 1/20 at 11:00am
- SB11- Sales and Use Tax - Agricultural Purpose Exemption - Seedlings and Fruit Trees, 1/26 at 1:00pm
- SB66/HB97 Department of Housing and Community Development - Office of Digital Inclusion – Established, TBD
- HB43 Department of Information Technology - Office of Broadband and Joint Committee on Broadband, TBD

Chris Benzing, stated that several bills will be heard prior to the next scheduled meeting on 1/25 and suggested that the Committee meet on 1/18. Participants agreed and a meeting is scheduled for 1/18 from 2pm to 3pm. Additionally, it was recommended that those bills supported last year will be automatically supported this year. For example, HB8 was supported last year, therefore RMC staff will update accordingly and submit without review/approval from Committee members. Ms. Davis informed the Committee RMC is hosting a Rural Broadband Stakeholder’s meeting on Thursday, July 21st at 11am to discuss the two introduced broadband bills.

Stakeholder Updates

There were no stakeholder comments.

Other

- Legislative Lunch: Ms. Davis stated that the Executive Board will meet on January 29th from 12pm to 2pm.
- Rural Maryland Day: Ms. Davis informed participants that Rural Maryland Day will take place February 11th virtually. Planning is still underway and RMC staff will keep Committee members informed.

Adjourn

Ms. Thompson thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 2:52pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 18, 2021, 2pm-3pm, Conference Call