



RMC Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 10, 2022

Time: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Type: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Andrew Cassilly, Delegate Mike McKay, Kurt Fuchs, Darren Jarboe, Monique Snyder, Beth Hill, Matt Tefteau, Susan O'Neill, Cassie Shirk, Scott Warner, Greg Padghm, Steve McHenry, Diana Hsu, Susanne Zilberfarb, Alice Settle-Raskin, Cassandra Van Hooser, Kelly Dudeck, Senator Addie Eckardt, Kimberly Kratovil, Chris Benzing, Charlotte Davis, Amanda Clevenger, Dakota Matthews, Megan D'Arcy

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Ms. Charlotte Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting at 2:02 pm and stated that this was mainly a organizational meeting because the 2022 legislative priorities were reviewed at the last meeting and this is the last chance to make any changes.
- II. Review of November 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes: Ms. Charlotte Davis asked if there were any corrections to the 11/3/2021 minutes. Ms. Davis asked if there were any objections. There were none. The minutes were unanimously accepted.
- III. Session Preview: Ms. Charlotte Davis stated the Senate is meeting virtually until February 14, 2022 and Delegate McKay stated that he understood the House will be virtual all session but there may be some changes in February. Ms. Davis state that the buildings are open with limited access and meetings with legislators are by appointment only. Ms. Davis reviewed leadership changes in both the House and the Senate.
- IV. 2022 Legislative Priorities: Ms. Davis reviewed the legislative priorities and stated that changes may be needed to update the surplus of the State's General Fund. Senator Eckardt recommended that the budget priorities be printed on a postcard format and the Committee agreed that was a good idea. Ms. Davis and staff will work on printing in this format. Ms. Davis asked for a motion and a vote from the Committee to recommend approval of the legislative prioties to the Executive Committee. Senator Eckardt made the motion as presented and Delegate McKay seconded it. All were in favor. Darren Jarboe abstained. The motion passed unanimously to send the legislative priorities document to the Executive Committee.
- V. 2022 Bill Tracking (Pre-Files)
 - a. SB7/HB15: Invasive and Native Plants - Classification, Listing, Use, and Sales and Use Tax. Cassie Shirk stated that there is concern from MDA about increased workload for staff and what the department will need to fulfill the requirements of the bill. Ms. Shirk further stated that small businesses could be impacted and could potentially require more work for these businesses regarding signage. *Status: Monitor*
 - b. SB14/HB100: Sustainable Maryland Program Fund – Establishment. Ms. Charlotte Davis provided a background on the program. *Status: Monitor*
 - c. SB38: Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Returning to State Meat Processing Inspection (Farms Buy Local Act). *Status: Monitor*
 - d. SB46: Housing Development and Neighborhood Revitalization Programs – Notice and Application Requirements. *Status: Monitor*
 - e. SB56: Program Open Space - Local Plans and Programs - General Assembly

- f. SB76: Motor Vehicle Registration - Exceptions for Golf Carts and Low Speed Vehicles - Cobb Island. *Status: Monitor*
- g. SB80/HB193: Motor Vehicle Registration - Exceptions for Golf Carts - Hoopers Island and Taylors Island. *Status: Monitor*
- h. SB82: Certified Nursing Assistants - Licensing Requirements. The Committee decided to support it as there is shortage of providers and we need things to help encourage these positions. *Status: Support*
- i. SB86: Department of Natural Resources – Lease Agreements – Trail Access Provision. Ms. Davis stated that it does not required trail access but encourages it. *Status: Monitor.*
- j. SB92: Heirs Property: Maryland Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act. Related to landownership and lack of title and deeds for families that have been on land for years that has been subdivided. Steve McHenry stated that it's difficult for titling and both forestry and UMES have been looking at it. *Status: Support*
- k. SB110: Electricity - Community Solar Energy Generating Systems. Ms. Davis stated it's increasing what the definition of community solar is from 2 megawatts generated to 5. Mr. Matt Teffeau stated that information was correct and Choptank is currently monitoring it. *Status: Monitor*
- l. SB113: Environmental Health Specialists and On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems – Transfer of Responsibilities and Standards, Regulations, Applications, and Plans. *Status: Monitor*
- m. SB121/HB147: Maryland Farms and Families Fund, Maryland Food and Agricultural Resiliency Mechanism Grant Program, and Maryland Farm-to-School Meal Grant Pilot Program - Alterations and Establishment. Mr. Steve McHenry stated that this was legislation coming out of the Food Resiliency Council and has three main components - Increases funding to MDA from 100k to 300k; creates a pilot farm to school program; and establishes the Maryland Farm Act. *Status: Support.*
- n. SB122: Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Volunteer Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services. Ms. Davis stated the Council supported it last year. *Status: Support*
- o. SB135/HB171: Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act. *Status: Monitor*
- p. SB150/HB6: Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Coverage for Adults. Delegate McKay stated that this bill is adding oral health to the medical portfolio. *Status: Support.*
- q. SB154: Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact. Senator Eckardt stated that this bill will allow the Advanced Nurse Practitioner to practice reciprocity and form a compact and give prescriptive authority. The Council supported the bill last year. *Status: Support.*
- r. SB178: Program Open Space - Local Projects - Federal Funds. *Status: Monitor*
- s. SB205: Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning - Apprenticeship and Training Council - Sunset Extension. The Council supported this in the past. *Status: Support.*
- t. HB1: Constitutional Amendment - Cannabis - Adult Use and Possession. *Status: Monitor*
- u. HB2: Income Tax – Work Opportunity Tax Credit. Proposing a State level work opportunity tax credit. Co-Chair Chris Benzing suggested that the Committee experience from both his personal and professional experience. *Status: Support*

- v. HB11: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Tier 1 Renewable Source – Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2022). Committee members discussed concerns about the bill as it eliminates chicken litter, wood, and will disqualifies MDAs waste technology funds as Tier 1 renewables. Mr. Steve McHenry made a motion to oppose the bill. Mr. Kurt Fuchs seconded it. Co-Chair Chris Benzing asked if anyone opposed the motion. There was none. The Committee unanimously opposed the bill. *Status: Oppose*
- w. HB71: Manufactured Homes – Conversion to Real Property and Sale of Manufactured Housing Communities (Manufactured Housing Modernization Act). *Status: Monitor.*
- x. HB116-Right to Engage in Equine Activities. *Status: Monitor*
- y. HB178- Public Health – Cottage Food Businesses – Annual Revenues. The Committee discussed the benefit off cottage foods to support rural entrepreneurship. *Status: Support*
- z. HB-179: Counties and State Legislative Districts - Food Environment Reports. *Status: Monitor*

VI. Other

- a. Ms. Kelly Dudeck said there are two bills that they have sponsors but do not have numbers. The one bill allows for 6-month extension of the sunset and the second one deals with the Department of Taxation reassign agricultural farms to commercial which has resulted in higher property taxes.
- b. Ms. Charlotte Davis stated that there will a 40 by 2040 instead of 30% of land conserved by 2030.
- c. Legislative Committee Meetings: Co-Chair Chris Benzing recommended that the Committee meet weekly through legislative session. The Committee decided to meet weekly and cancel if needed.
- d. Legislative Lunch – Friday, January 28, 2022: Ms. Davis reported that it is currently scheduled at MDA and the Committee discussed a virtual option. Ms. Davis stated that she will report back to the Executive Committee.
- e. Rural Maryland Day – Thursday, February 10, 2022: Ms. Charlotte Davis reported that this event will be virtual, and Maryland Day Lunch will be held in person at Lawyers Mall on a Friday, March 25, 2022 from 11:00am to 1:00pm.
- f. Other Events: Committee members reviewed meeting dates.
 - i. MEDA - ~~Thursday, January 13, 2022~~ VIRTUAL
 - ii. Farm Bureau Day-Wednesday, February 9, 2022
 - iii. ~~Taste of Eastern Shore, Thursday, February 10, 2022~~
 - iv. ~~Taste of Southern Maryland, Thursday, February 24, 2022~~
 - v. Taste of Maryland Agriculture, Thursday, ~~February 3, 2022~~ March 3, 2022
 - vi. PACE -Thursday, March 3 and Friday, 4, 2022
 - vii. ~~Chicken Day TBD~~

VII. Adjourn: Ms. Charlotte Davis thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and adjourned the meeting at 3:05pm.