



RMC Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: March 7, 2022, 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Type: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Co-chair Chris Benzing, Scott Warner, Don Mulrine, Janice Palmer, Grayson Middleton, Bill Christopher, Dianna-Lynne Hsu, Alice Settle-Raskin, Dan Rider, Matt Tefteau, Kimberly Kratovil, Susanne Zilberfarb, Steve McHenry, Taylor Blades, Charlotte Davis, Amanda Clevenger, Dakota Matthews, Megan D'Arcy

Co-chair Chris Benzing welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 2:02pm. Co-chair Benzing asked if there were any issues or problems with the February 28, 2022 minutes. There were no none. Co-chair Benzing asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Don Mulrine made the motion to accept the minutes, Mr. Scott Warner seconded. Co-chair Benzing asked if there was any opposition. There was none. The 2/28/2022 minutes were unanimously accepted.

Ms. Charlotte Davis provided a budget update stating that the hearings were held February 23, 2022 and February 28, 2022 last week and they went well and the committee reports will be available later this week and they will move out to the floor next week. Ms. Davis stated that DLS did not request any additional information from RMC. Ms. Davis provided an update on Maryland Day stating invitations were sent out for the guest speakers to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, Secretary Bartenfelder, and, Secretary Haddaway-Ricco. Ms. Davis further reported that staff Chesapeake Culinary Center Caroline County to supply the lunches.

The Committee reviewed those bill that were on hold from the February 28, 2022 meeting and the status of these bills is the following:

- a. HB1243: Public Health – Rural Nonemergency Medical Transportation Program – First Reading Hrg 3/7. Ms. Charlotte Davis stated that Mr. John Hartline will be testifying on the bill and it contains a million mandate funding and its purpose is for nonprofits to coordinate with the hospitals to provide non-emergency transportation. The Committee decide to monitor the bill. *Status – Monitor.*
- b. SB791/HB1031: Natural Resources – Land Conservation – Establishment of Goals and Programs (Maryland the Beautiful), Senate Hrg 3/09; House Hrg 3/2. The Committee discussed the bill and it was decided to monitor because the mandate of \$10 million that do not have a funding source. The Committee decided to monitor the bill. *Status – Monitor.*
- c. SB986/HB1240: Education - Low Density Calculation – Mandated Funding. Status – Hold. The Committee discussed the bill and really pertains only to Caroline County School Systems because the population size is less 2,000. The Committee decided to monitor the bill. *Status – Monitor.*
- d. SB716: Maryland Health Care Workers Loan Assistance Program – Establishment and Funding, Senate Hrg, 3/10. *Status – Monitor.* The Committee discussed that the purpose of this bill is to provide a broad loan assistance repayment and its unclear which health care professionals would be eligible. The Committee decided to monitor the bill due to the mandate. *Status – Monitor.*
- e. HB1324: Transportation – Maryland Rail Authority – Establishment (Maryland Rail Investment Act of 2022) – Hrg 3/8. The Committee discussed that his bill

focused on commuter rail and not heavy rail and therefore does not focus on rural. The Committee decided to remove the bill from the tracker. *Status– Remove from bill tracker.*

- f. HB1086/SB419: Opioid Restitution Fund – Appropriation of Settlement Funds and Grant Program. House Hrg 2/22; Senate Favorable Report. The Committee is trying to find more information this bill as it relates to the distribution of the grants. The Committee decided to monitor the bill. *Status – Monitor.*

The Committee reviewed SB561 – Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Employee-Owned Businesses. The Committee supported this bill and provided both written and spoken testimony at the Senate Hearing that took place on February 16, 2022 and the House hearing that took place on February 9, 2022. Ms. Charlotte Davis reported that the bill is hanging on by a thread and while its been on the voting list a couple of time, it has not been voted on.

The Committee reviewed the bills that will be heard the week of March 7 – 11. These bill have already been discussed by the Committee and testimony has been submitted or will be submitted with the exception of HB1311, which will continue to be monitored.

- a. HB929 – Department of Housing and Community Development - Opportunity Zone Fund – Establishment, House Hrg 3/8. Status – Support with Amendments – *Status - Written Testimony Submitted.*
- b. SB826/HB1242 - Economic Development - Maryland Watermen's Microloan Program – Establishment, House Hrg. 3/9. *Status - Written Testimony Submitted.*
- c. SB800/HB1002 - Sales and Use Tax - Electricity for Agricultural Purposes – Exemption, Senate Hrg 3/9. *Status - Written Testimony Submitted.*
- d. HB1312-Public Safety - Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund – Alterations, Senate Hrg 3/1. *Status – Written Testimony Submitted*
- e. HB410 - Transportation – Highway User Revenue – Distribution, House Hrg 3/10. *Status – Support (testimony to be submitted)*
- f. HB1187 -Transportation – Highway User Revenues – Revenue and Distribution, House Hrg 3/10. *Status – Support (testimony to be submitted)*
- g. HB1311 - Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund - Authorized Uses (Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund Lockbox Act of 2022), House Hrg 3/10. Ms. Charlotte Davis stated that the Committee is currently monitoring bill but maybe we should support it in order to limit diverted funding from the Bay Restoration Fund. The Committee decided to continue to monitor the bill. *Status – Monitor*

Co-chair Chris Benzing stated that this is the mid-point section of Session, and everything will flip in a week or two during cross over and therefore things have greatly slowed down. Co-chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Don Mulrine moved the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:22pm. *Next Meeting: Monday, March 14, 2022, 2pm-3pm, Zoom Teleconference.*