



RMC Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2025
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Zoom

Participants: Co-Chair Kurt Fuchs, Co-Chair Patty Shreves, Susan O'Neill, Alice Settle-Raskin, Bill Valentine, Josh Hastings, Gregory Padgham, Scott Warner, Janice Palmer, Dan Rider, Susan Banks, Bill Christopher, Susan Harrison, Matt Tefteau, John Hartline, Susanne Richards, William Reid, Alyssa Hastings, Joe Hinson, Beth Hill, Mike Detmer, Andrew Cassily, Rachel Jones, Stacy Kubofcik, Steve McHenry

RMC Staff: Charlotte Davis, Megan D'Arcy, Molli Cole, Leeza DeCheubel

Co-Chair Kurt Fuchs welcomed the committee and initiated the meeting at 2:02 pm.

The committee reviewed the meeting minutes from January 27, 2025. **Bill Valentine motioned to approve the minutes; John Hartline seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.**

The committee reviewed legislation, and the following bills were discussed:

- I. HB842 Consumer Protection - Right to Repair - Farm Equipment
Committee Recommendation: Monitor
- II. SB467/HB530 Maryland Forestry Education Fund – Mandatory Funding – Extension
Committee Recommendation: Support
- III. HB969/SB774 Property Tax – Valuation of Operating Property of Rural Broadband Service Providers
Committee Recommendation: Support
- IV. HB716 Housing and Community Development - Statewide Rental Assistance Voucher Program Eligibility – Alterations
Committee Recommendation: Monitor
- V. HB731/SB635 Wildlife - Protections and Highway Crossings
Committee Recommendation: Support
- VI. HB894/SB946 Endangered and Threatened Species - Incidental Taking – Bats
Committee Recommendation: Support
- VII. HB84/SB395 Transportation – Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects and Impact Assessments (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2025)
Committee Recommendation: Monitor [Andrew Cassily motioned to monitor; John Hartline seconded the motion. The motion to monitor was unanimously approved]
- VIII. HB717 Natural Resources - Public Lands - Acquisition, Staffing, Operations, and Funding
Committee Recommendation: Support with Amendments
- IX. HB0708 Institutions of Postsecondary Education - Institutional Debt – Report
Committee Recommendation: Support
- X. HB846 Transportation Access and Revenue Act
Committee Recommendation: Amend



The committee reviewed upcoming events. This includes:

- Rural Maryland Day, February 13, 2025, at the Maryland Inn, Annapolis, Maryland
- Legislative Luncheon, February 26, 2025, at Rams Head On Stage in Annapolis, Maryland
- Maryland Day, March 25, 2025, at Lawyer's Mall in Annapolis, Maryland

The committee is next scheduled to meet on Monday, February 24, 2025, via Zoom.

Mr. Fuchs opened the floor to any additional information and/ or legislation that should be mentioned for the good of the committee. Committee members mentioned the following:

- I. SB0691 Cybersecurity - Healthcare Ecosystem
- II. HB0650/SB0563 Maryland Fair and Agricultural Education Promise Fund – Establishment (Maryland Fair and Agricultural Education Promise Act)
[support previously drafted by RMC]
- III. HB1036/SB0931 Public Utilities - Generating Stations - Generation and Siting (Renewable Energy Certainty Act)
- IV. HB1417/SB0480 Department of General Services - Clean Energy Procurement Program – Establishment

Committee Recommendation: Support

The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 pm.