



RMC Legislative Committee Meeting
Monday, January 12, 2026
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Participants: Co-Chair Kurt Fuchs, Matt Teffeau, Bill Valentine, Joe Hinson, Bob Zimberoff, Jennifer Walsh, Megan Speake, Josh Hastings, Bill Christopher, Alice Settle-Raskin, Heather Tinelli, Josh Bollinger, Scott Warner, Kristen Goller, John Hartline, Steve McHenry, Gregory Padgham, Cassandra Vanhooser, Grayson Middleton, Susanne Richards

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. by Co-Chair Kurt Fuchs, who welcomed attendees and facilitated introductions.

The committee reviewed the December 8, 2025 meeting minutes. Co-Chair Fuchs proposed a correction to a typo within the minutes. A motion to approve the minutes with the proposed amendment was made by Bob Zimberoff and seconded by John Hartline. The motion carried.

The committee then conducted a preview of the 2026 legislative session. Members reviewed the link to the issue papers and discussed key session dates of interest.

The committee reviewed the 2026 legislative priorities and discussed a request to include MARBIDCO and livestock processing. A motion to approve the legislative priorities as modified was made by Bill Christopher and seconded by Scott Warner. The motion carried.

The committee also reviewed the draft bill titled *Economic Development – Rural Readiness Program and Rural Maryland 2 Capacity Building Fund – Establishment*, which had been previously included in the December meeting materials.

The committee also reviewed the budget postcard, and a motion to approve it was made by Bill Valentine and seconded by Bob Zimberoff. The motion carried.

Updates were provided regarding General Assembly leadership changes, including additional House appointments, the Rural Caucus, and the Senate PSTE Subcommittee.

The committee reviewed upcoming events, including the Legislative Luncheon scheduled for January 27, Rural Maryland Day on February 12, and Maryland Day on March 25.

With time remaining in the meeting, Charlotte Davis, Executive Director, requested consideration of prefile legislation that became available earlier that day. This included:

- SB0036/HB0239 - Land Use - Zoning - Limitations (Starter and Silver Homes Act of 2026) – *Rec: Monitor; RMC Position: Monitor*
- SB0058/HB0161 - Property Tax Credit - Retail Service Station Conversions – *Rec: Support; RMC Position: Support*



- SB0165/HB0146 - Environment - On-Site Wastewater Systems - Requirements for Inspection and Pumping Services and Implementation Dates – *Rec: Monitor; RMC Position: Monitor*
- SB0197/HB0243 - Land Use - Comprehensive and General Plans - Alteration of Elements – *Rec: Monitor; RMC Position: Monitor*
- SB0226/HB0238 - Maryland Heritage Area Authority and Heritage Areas – Alterations – *Rec: Monitor; RMC Position: Monitor*
- SB0229/HB0217 - General Provisions – Commemorative Month – Maryland Native Plant Month – *Rec: Monitor; RMC Position: Monitor*
- HB0085 - Corporations and Associations - Cooperative Limited Equity Housing Corporations – Establishment – *Rec: Monitor; RMC Position: Monitor*
- HB0091 - Agriculture - Neonicotinoid Pesticides – Prohibitions – *Rec: Monitor; RMC Position: Monitor*
- HB0120 - Moratorium on Construction of New Data Centers - Co-Location and Generation Contingency – *Rec: Monitor; RMC Position: Monitor*
- HB0072 - Natural Resources - Edible Forests and Foraging Program – Establishment; – *Rec: Monitor; RMC Position: Monitor*

The next meeting was scheduled for January 26, 2026. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:58 pm.