



RMC Legislative Committee Meeting
Monday, February 23, 2026
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Zoom

Minutes

Participants: Co-Chair Kurt Fuchs, Bill Valentine, Janice Palmer, Scott Warner, Heather Tinelli, Susanne Richards, Megan Speake, Alice Settle-Raskin, Matthew Teffeau, Gregory Padgham, Steve McHenry, Beth Hill, John Hartline, Stacy Kubofcik, Joe Hinson, Tim Hayes

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 led introductions.

The minutes from the February 9, 2026, meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Bill Valentine and seconded by John Hartline. The minutes were approved as presented.

The committee then moved into legislative review. Executive Director Charlotte Davis provided an update on SB0300/HB0461 – Economic Development – Rural Readiness Program and Rural Maryland Capacity Building Fund – Establishment and thanked those who were able to provide testimony in support.

Staff Rec: Support

- i. HB0811 / SB0530 – Aging-in-Place Programs – Grants – Multigenerational Third Places (“The Village Multigenerational Third Places Act”); ***John Hartline motioned to support; Bill Valentine seconded the motion; RMC Position: Support***
- ii. HB0817 / SB0625 – Carbon Removal Technology and Practices – Regulations and Use of Funding; ***Moved to Monitor***
- iii. HB0972 – Maryland Fair and Agricultural Education Promise Fund – Establishment (“Maryland Fair and Agricultural Education Promise Act”); ***Steve McHenry motioned to support, Susanne Richards seconded the motion; RMC Position: Support***
- iv. HB1128 / SB0826 – Income Tax – Angel Investor Tax Credit for Investments in Emergent Technology; ***John Hartline motioned to support; Bill Valentine seconded the motion; RMC Position: Support***
- v. HB1590 / SB0807 – Alcoholic Beverages – Class 8 Farm Brewery and Class 10 Farm Distillery Licenses; ***Moved to Monitor***



Staff Rec: Monitor

i. HB1037 / SB0605 – Public Service Commission – Broadband and Voice Over Internet Protocol Service – Oversight (“Broadband Accountability and Affordability Act”); **Status: Remain as Monitor**

Staff Rec: Questionable

i. HB1213 – State Transfer Tax – Rate – Alterations (“Housing Affordability for Buyers and Sellers”); **Moved to Monitor**

Rural Maryland Day: Follow-ups

i. SB0770 / HB1473 – Economic Development – Maryland's Future Board – Establishment; **Steve McHenry motioned to support; Scott Warner seconded the motion; RMC Position: Support**

ii. HB0676 / SB0518 – Maryland Financial Empowerment Center Network Pilot Program – Establishment; **Scott Warner motioned to support; John Hartline seconded the motion; RMC Position: Support**

iii. HB1063 / SB0643 – Natural Resources – Hunting – Management; **Moved to Monitor**

iv. HB0395 / SB0371 – Water Pollution Control – Discharge Permits – Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations; **Steve McHenry motioned to support; Beth Hill seconded the motion; RMC Position: Support**

v. HB0429 / SB0599 – On-Farm Organics and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Programs – Establishment; **Moved to Monitor**

Upcoming events were announced, including Maryland Day on March 25 and the Spring Executive Board Meeting on April 3. The next meeting will be held on March 9, 2026.

With no additional business brought forward, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.