



RMC Legislative Committee Meeting
Monday, February 9, 2026
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Zoom

Minutes

Participants: Bill Valentine, William Reid, Alice Settle-Rakin, Gregory Padgham, Amy Keller, Bill Christopher, Joe Hinson, Steve McHenry, Harrison Palmer, Josh Bollinger, Matt Tefteau, Melanie Pursel, Stacy Kubofcik, Scott Warner, Susan O'Neill, Beth Hill, Heather Tinelli, Megan Speake, Cassandra Vanhooser, Nancy Nunn, Jennifer Walsh, Janice Palmer, Alyssa Hastings, Susanne Richards

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 PM by Charlotte Davis. She welcomed members and guests, and introductions were made.

The minutes from the January 26, 2026, meeting were presented for review. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Bill Valentine and seconded by Alice Settle-Raskin. The minutes were approved as presented.

The committee reviewed the following legislation and considered staff recommendations:

Staff Recommendation: Support

- **SB0489** – Health Occupations – Physicians Trained in International Medical Schools
- **SB0431 / HB0578** – Fish and Wildlife – Endangered and Threatened Species and Migratory Birds – Regulations, Lists, Petitions, Essential Habitats, and Takings
- **SB0424 / HB0609** – State Transfer Tax – Land Preservation Special Fund – Revenue Allocation
- **HB0535** – Food Establishments – Cottage Food Businesses – Maximum Annual Revenue (*traditionally supported*)
- **HB0595 / SB0466** – Income Tax – Credit for Physician Preceptors in Areas With Health Care Workforce Shortages – Alterations
- **HB0598 / SB0380** – Physicians – Licensing – Internationally Trained Physicians
- **HB0542 / SB0377** – Earned Income Tax Credit – Individuals Without Qualifying Children – Eligibility
- **HB0202** - Public Health - Social Isolation and Loneliness Pilot Grant Program – Establishment (*suggested by Amy Keller*)



Staff Recommendation: Monitor

- **SB0388** – Economic Development – Delivering Economic Competitiveness and Advancing Development Efforts (DECADE) Act
- **HB0547** – Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Enhanced Agricultural Management Equipment
- **HB0559** – Transportation – Highway User Revenues Capital Grants – Calculation
- **HB0560** – Sales and Use Tax and Property Tax – Exemptions for Data Centers – Repeal
- **HB0654** – Natural Resources – Maryland Heritage Areas Authority – Funding and Grants
- **HB0701** – Department of the Environment – Water Resources – Protection of Vernal Pools (Vernal Pool Wetlands Protection Act of 2026)
- **SB0479** – Environment – Building Energy Performance Standards and Energy Use Intensity Targets – Exemptions
- **SB0352/ HB0068** – Motor Vehicles – Special Registration Plates – Old Line Plates (Old Line Plate Program Act of 2026) (*suggested by Susanne Richards*)

Staff Recommendation: Questionable

- **HB0342** – Forestry Licenses – Applicant Qualifications – Alterations (*moved to Monitor*)
- **SB0455 / HB0506** – Economic Development – Transformational Project Financing Program – Establishment (*moved to Monitor*)
- **HB0909** – Sales and Use Tax – Cut Flowers – Exemption (*moved to Support, a motion was made by Alice Settle Raskin; Bill Valentine seconded the motion*)

A motion was made by Dr. William Reid and seconded by Beth Hill to accept the staff recommendation to support all bills listed under “Support,” including HB0202. The motion carried.

Upcoming events were announced, including Rural Maryland Day on February 12, Maryland Day on March 25, and the Spring Executive Board Meeting on April 3.

With no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Bill Reid and seconded by Bill Valentine. The meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.