

Delegation Minutes – Jan 13, 2012

Daniel Valentine, Legislative Director

Present

Chair Griffith
Vaughn
Ivey
Alston
Braveboy
Frush
Gaines
Healey
Holmes
Howard
Hubbard
Peña-Melnyk
Ross
Summers
Turner
Valentino-Smith
Vaughn
Walker

Absent

Davis
Niemann
Proctor
Valderrama
Vallario

1. Opening Remarks

Meeting convened by Chair Griffith. First meeting of session welcome. Members and staff were introduced and thanked.

Elected Officials were recognized.

2. Subcommittee Reports

A) Del. Ross (County Affairs)

Plans to move swiftly on 18 bills proposed for session. Next meeting Jan 18.

B) Del. Peña-Melnyk (WSSC)

1st Meeting will be on Jan 18th. Plan to address two county-originated WSSC Bills: PG 101 and PG 107.

C) Del. Walker (MNCPPC)

Welcomed as chair. Group scheduled to meet on Wednesday's opposite of WSSC. Also tentatively considering Thursday Mornings instead. Will advise.

D) Law Enforcement (Chair Griffith)

Committee will meet on Thursday mornings in Room 150 at 9 am. Because chairs are absent, members will be emailed the bills that are under consideration.

3. Work Group Reports:

A) Gaming (Del. Gaines):

Held several meetings during interim. "Robust" discussion, but no recommendations as yet. They plan to have recommendations in the session.

B) Alcohol Work Group (Vaughn):

Met with Prince George's County Board of Lic Commissioners Chair Franklin Jackson during interim.

-Discussed new entertainment permits for Class B restaurants, which will allow police and residents a greater say in permitting entertainment at facilities outside normal dining hours.

- Have discussed the new regulations for home alcohol delivery, which have drawn applications for permission from establishments...still trying to understand the process

C) Business and Economic Development (Walker):

- Not met formally during interim

- Have been working closely with the Prince George's Economic Development Corp. , attending meetings, etc.

- Discussion of "branding" for county / preparing for utilizing the "Invest Maryland" program

- Plan to ask the PG EDC to come and present to the delegation during session.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM CHAIR:

The delegation plans to pursue an expedited schedule this session of reviewing local bills as early as possible, with a goal by the end of February.

The goal is to allow more time for the county delegation to meet and discuss statewide issues that impact Prince George's County.

4. Presentation by Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker III & Staff

Executive spoke along with Thomas Himler, **budget officer** for Prince George's County, and Brad Seamon, Chief Administrative Officer

Rushern L. Baker III:

Thanked delegates for doing great job last year. Asking to do an even greater job this year.

Priorities for state funding will be school construction and renovation.

The executive asked for support for PG-418, a payment in lieu of taxes program that would be in addition to the new Economic Development Incentive Fund. The executive also expressed support for raising the state's gasoline tax, provided that the highway user revenue goes to the counties.

Executive asked the state not to shift teacher pension costs to county, which would add \$30 to \$80 million to the county's current deficit.

Also supports Net taxable income change, and would like state resources for implementing the Watershed Improvement Program.

The executive supports PG-402, known as the bag fee or bag tax legislation. Has seen it work in DC, he said.

On Gaming: Has told the governor, Senate president and speaker that he is open to the idea as a source of revenue. The executive said he has not seen a specific set of projections or a proposal. He asked the delegation to have an open mind and weigh the options on the table.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 as session bell rang.