

Joint Committee on Federal Relations

2009 Interim Membership Roster

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Committee Staff

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Joint Committee on Federal Relations

December 14, 2009

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., Co-chairman
The Honorable Michael E. Busch, Co-chairman
Members of the Legislative Policy Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Joint Committee on Federal Relations respectfully submits this report on committee activities during the 2009 interim. Pursuant to Title 2, Subtitle 9 of the State Government Article, the committee is responsible for monitoring the effects of federal proposals on the State, reviewing interstate compacts, and generally promoting cooperation between the State and federal governments. The committee's major activities are summarized below.

Federal Health Care Legislative Initiative Briefing – In August the committee held a briefing on pending federal health care reform legislation. A representative from the National Conference of State Legislatures briefed the committee on the multiple versions of the legislation, the status of each, and prospects for passage.

Federal Climate Change Legislative Briefing – In September the committee was briefed by the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Maryland Department of the Environment on federal climate change initiatives. The briefing focused on pending federal legislation and its potential effect on Maryland in light of the fact that Maryland has already passed similar legislation and is a member state of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

Congressional Meetings – In October the committee met with most of the members of the Maryland congressional delegation in Washington, DC over two days. A few of the issues discussed include:

- health care reform legislation and its effect on Maryland;
- federal climate change legislation and its effect on the State's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative;
- budgetary challenges at the State and federal level;
- legislative efforts to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay;
- repeal or reform of the costly federal REAL ID mandate on the states; and

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- promoting Maryland tourism through official designation of the American Discovery Trail by the National Park Service.

Briefing on Chesapeake Bay Restoration Initiatives – In December the committee was briefed by the Chesapeake Bay Commission on emerging federal policy and how it relates to bay restoration in affected states. The briefing focused on the Baywide Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) due in December 2010, federal legislation (S.1816) to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program, and the president's recent executive order and the reports and strategies that have followed.

In addition to the above activities, the committee corresponded with the State's congressional delegation on issues of interest. The committee also completed its review of the following interstate compacts:

- Appalachian States Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Compact;
- Interstate Corrections Compact;
- Interstate Agreement on Detainers;
- Driver License Compact;
- Interstate Emergency Management Assistance Compact;
- Interstate Pest Control Compact; and
- Pursuit of Offenders Across Maryland-Virginia Water Boundary Compact.

The committee looks forward to continuing its role as a forum for discussion of important issues in State-federal relations.

Sincerely,

Jennie M. Forehand
Presiding Chair

HBH:JMF/SDV/mpc