

Joint Committee on Federal Relations

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THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

Joint Committee on Federal Relations

December 19, 2011

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 2011 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.

Transportation Funding, Finance, and Policy Issues – On September 7 the committee held a briefing on transportation funding, finance, and policy issues. The briefing featured three presentations, each focusing on the consequences of a potential reduction of federal spending on transportation:

- Mr. Jack Basso, Chief Operating Officer of The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, gave a presentation entitled “Federal Surface Transportation Authorization and Funding.”
- Ms. Jaime Rall, a policy specialist from the National Conference of State Legislatures Transportation Program, gave a presentation entitled “State-Federal Relations in Transportation Funding and Finance.”
- Ms. Caitlin Hughes Rayman, Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy and Freight for the Maryland Department of Transportation, gave a presentation entitled “Maryland Transportation Overview: Priorities and Challenges for the Next Authorization Bill.”

Interstate Compacts – Also during the same September meeting, the committee completed its review of the following interstate compacts:

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., Co-chairman
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- Compact for Education;
- Interstate Library Compact;
- Interstate Compact on Mental Health;
- Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children;
- Potomac Highlands Authority Airport Compact;
- Interstate Agreement on the Qualifications of Educational Personnel;
- Southern Regional Education Compact;
- Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance;
- Nurse Multi-State Licensure Compact; and
- Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

The joint committee concurred with the agencies' positions regarding the compacts and, for the record, indicated that each of these compacts warrant Maryland's continued participation.

Federal Issues Facing the State of Maryland – On October 19 the joint committee welcomed Mr. Dana Thompson from the Governor's Washington Office. Mr. Thompson spoke to several issues that he stated are important to the Governor, including creating jobs, avoiding any federal spending cuts, protecting Medicaid, and applying a balanced approach to fiscal issues. The committee requested that the Governor's Washington Office provide the committee periodic updates, and Mr. Thompson, on behalf of the office, agreed to do so.

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

Sincerely,

Jennie M. Forehand
Presiding Co-chair

Tom Hucker
Presiding Co-chair

JMF:TH/MFB/mpc

cc: Mr. Karl S. Aro
Ms. Lynne B. Porter
Mr. Warren G. Deschenaux