

# **JOINT COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS**

2022 Interim

State Government Article, Section 2-906(b)

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December 16, 2022



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

## JOINT COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS

December 16, 2022

The Honorable Bill Ferguson, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Co-Chair  
Members of the Legislative Policy Committee

Dear President Ferguson, Speaker Jones, and Members:

During the 2022 interim, the Joint Committee on Federal Relations (1) held a briefing on the management of Maryland toll policy/billing and revenue collection from an interstate perspective and (2) undertook its annual review of a portion of the interstate compacts of which Maryland is a member. These activities are summarized below.

### **September 14 Briefing**

The joint committee held a briefing on September 14 in which the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) was asked to address a number of topics relating to (1) how Maryland toll policy and billing changes are communicated and applied to out-of-state drivers and (2) the importance and effectiveness of the State's toll revenue collection from out-of-state drivers. MDTA's executive director, William Pines, gave a presentation on Maryland's tolling procedures and the agency's customer assistance efforts in general and answered questions relating to various subjects, including (1) the agency's revenue collection efforts and methods with respect to both in-state vs. out-of-state collections; (2) the agency's recent change in tolling vendors and the pause in E-ZPass transactions on the Intercounty Connector that resulted from the change in vendors; (3) Maryland's participation in, and the functioning of, the E-ZPass Interagency Group; (4) the status of MDTA customer service wait times; (5) how waiving civil penalties for failure to pay tolls affects the agency's trust agreement with bondholders; and (6) proactive notification of customers when E-ZPass transponders are not functioning or other billing issues occur.

### **Annual Interstate Compact Review**

The joint committee conducts an annual review of Maryland's membership in various interstate compacts, covering all compacts over a four-year cycle. The review focuses on whether Maryland's continued membership in the compacts serves the interests of the State and whether any legislative changes to the compacts are needed. This interim, the joint committee staff sent questionnaires to the State agencies involved with each of the eight compacts up for review this year and prepared summaries for the committee members based on the agencies' responses. The

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compacts up for review this year are: (1) the Chesapeake Bay Commission Agreement; (2) the Interstate Mining Compact; (3) the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact; (4) the Susquehanna River Basin Compact; (5) the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin; (6) the Potomac River Compact; (7) the Southern States Energy Compact; and (8) the Interstate Anti-Doping and Drug Testing Standards Compact.

Based on the responses from the State agencies involved with each compact, the joint committee is taking the following actions for five of the compacts:

- **Interstate Oil and Gas Compact:** The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) indicated that the cost of the State's membership in the compact may exceed the benefits of membership. The joint committee will follow up with MDE during the 2023 interim regarding whether the State should withdraw from the compact.
- **Susquehanna River Basin Compact:** The joint committee is requesting additional information from MDE on shortfalls in annual funding received by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission from Pennsylvania, the federal government, and Maryland, and the reasons behind these funding shortfalls.
- **Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin:** The joint committee is requesting additional information from MDE on the status of the commission's federal funding request (which MDE indicated in September was pending in Congress).
- **Potomac River Compact:** The joint committee is requesting additional information from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on revisions to the compact that the department indicated are needed, and how to best pursue those revisions, as well as additional information on the level of funding provided by Virginia to the Potomac River Fisheries Commission.
- **Interstate Anti-Doping and Drug Testing Standards Compact:** The joint committee will follow up with the Maryland Racing Commission in 2023 or a later year regarding the status and effectiveness of a recently established federal regulatory program that superseded this compact. The joint committee may consider introducing legislation to repeal the compact as obsolete in a future year.

Upon receipt of additional information from DNR and MDE, the joint committee may consider additional actions, including communication with officials in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and the federal government about funding for the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission.

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For the other three compacts reviewed by the joint committee this year, the State agencies involved with each of these compacts indicated that Maryland's membership in the compacts continues to serve the interests of the State, and no legislative changes are necessary.

Sincerely,



Senator Jill P. Carter  
Senate Chair



Delegate Alfred C. Carr, Jr.  
House Chair

JPC:ACC/SDK:SMQ/km

cc: Sally M. Robb  
Jeremy P. Baker  
Victoria L. Gruber  
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